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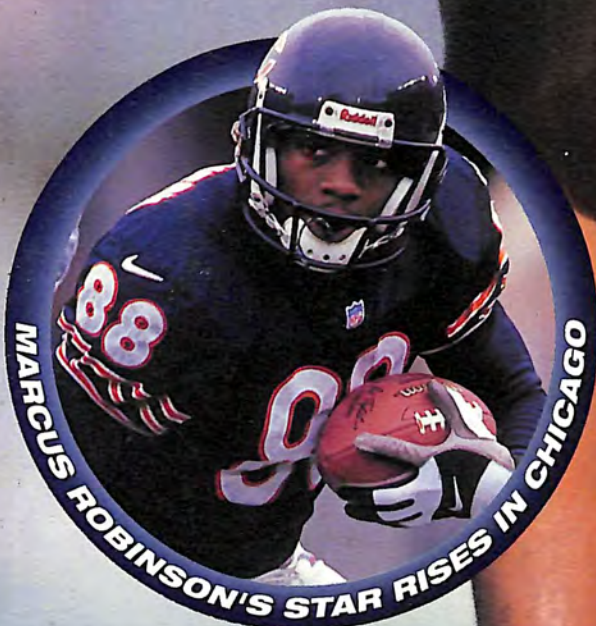
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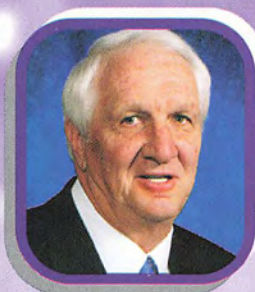
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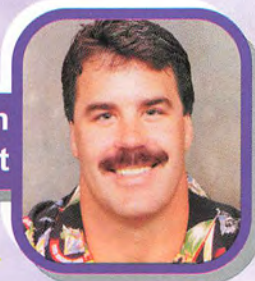
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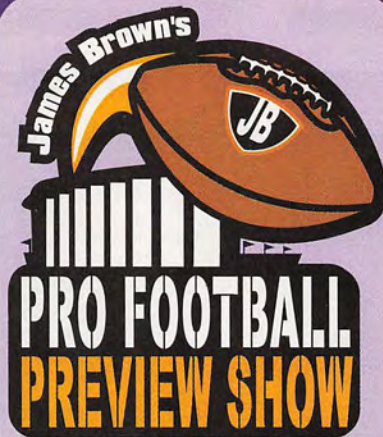
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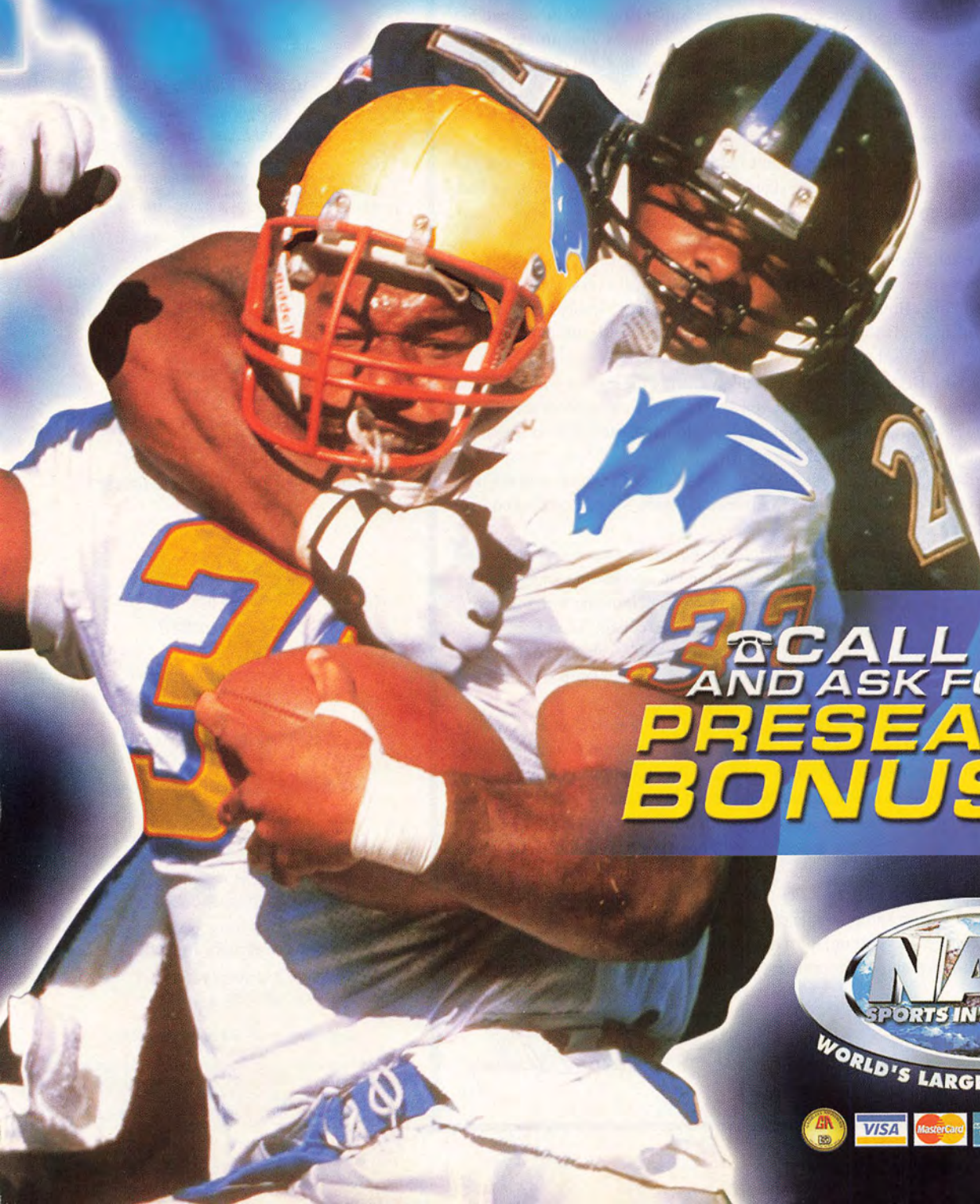
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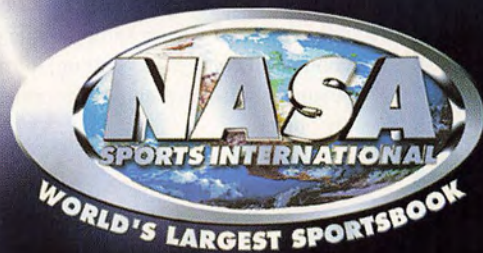


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## EDITOR'S LETTER

### Can we keep all the news on the field, guys—please?

Dear *Street & Smith's Pro Football* reader:

What a wonderful, quirky season last.

Exhibit A: Who predicted a Virginia Tech team (No. 10 in our preseason rankings) would give redoubtable Florida State such an incredible, close run for the national championship? Wish we had, but didn't. Nor did anyone else.

But what fun it was!

Exhibit B: Who predicted a St. Louis-Tennessee Super Bowl? Wish we had, but didn't. Nor did anyone else, including the Las Vegas geniuses who offered something like, uh, infinity-to-1 on a preseason wager. Wish we had, but didn't. Nor did anyone else.

But what fun it was! ("The greatest Super Bowl ever," gushed some. Well, at least the fourth quarter was.)

Exhibit C: This is out of my personal left field. Who predicted the University of Hawaii (0-12 in '98) would be WAC co-champion and a bowl winner? Wish we had, but didn't. Nor did anyone else.

But what fun it was!

Fun. That's what's football's all about. Or should be.

Sure, big money plays a significant role in the NFL, as well as college. And that's exclusive of gambling. Both are big businesses. Both are inextricably tied together. (No doubt, President Teddy Roosevelt has died a thousand more deaths over his 1906 offspring, known today as the NCAA.)

This spring's NFL Draft was notable in many ways, not the least of which was the record number of non-seniors drafted. But you also have to wonder about the alleged "seniors" who were, and just how capable they are to handle the myriad pressures attendant to their newfound wealth and celebrity.

Leander Jordan, a third-round selection of the Carolina Panthers, said his new boss, owner and CEO Jerry Richardson, wants two things: a Super Bowl (of course) and no "thugs" on his roster.

"He said he doesn't want thugs," Jordan told *The Charlotte Observer*. "There's no room for the nonsense." Quoting the boss (a sentiment—no doubt—expressed by Richardson's NFL peers), Jordan said: "This is how we want it or you won't be here."

"Keep your nose clean" was Jordan's interpretation. Excellent, Leander!

Rae Carruth, the Panthers' first-round draft choice in 1997, is being held without bail in the murder of his estranged, pregnant girlfriend. His newborn son survived the shooting.

There are other Panthers (mostly ex), such as Kerry Collins, who may be losing the battle of the bottle. He's now with the Giants, via the Saints, in just two seasons.

Lest we pick on Carolina, Baltimore football icon Ray Lewis also faces a murder charge in a bizarre incident following the Super Bowl in Atlanta.

There's more, but lesser offenses, even down to incoming rookie Bengal Peter Warrick, who at Florida State last season thought he could buy clothes for pennies on the dollar. No big deal, but it may have cost him the Heisman.

There's a serious lesson in all this. For any aspiring football player at any level—including those of wealth and prominence—use whatever gray matter you have for the good of all concerned. Starting, most assuredly, with *you*.

Financial substance and/or prominence without blending in the brain can be a deadly opiate.



# Street & Smith's

June 2000

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# *Street & Smith's* **PRO FOOTBALL**

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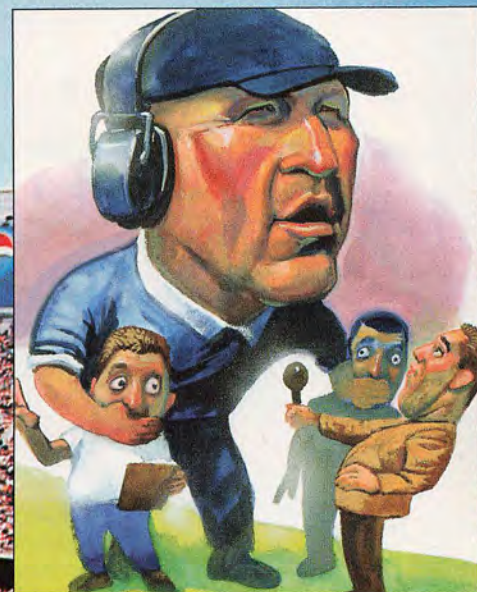
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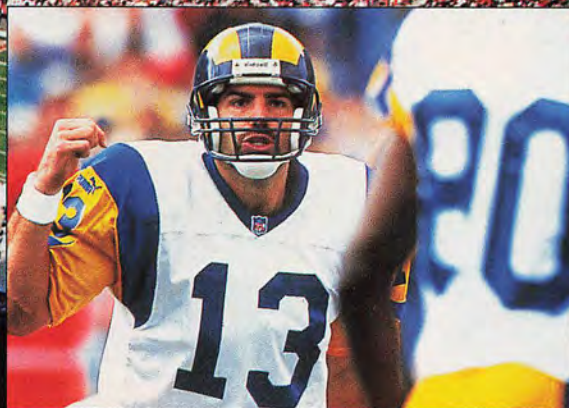




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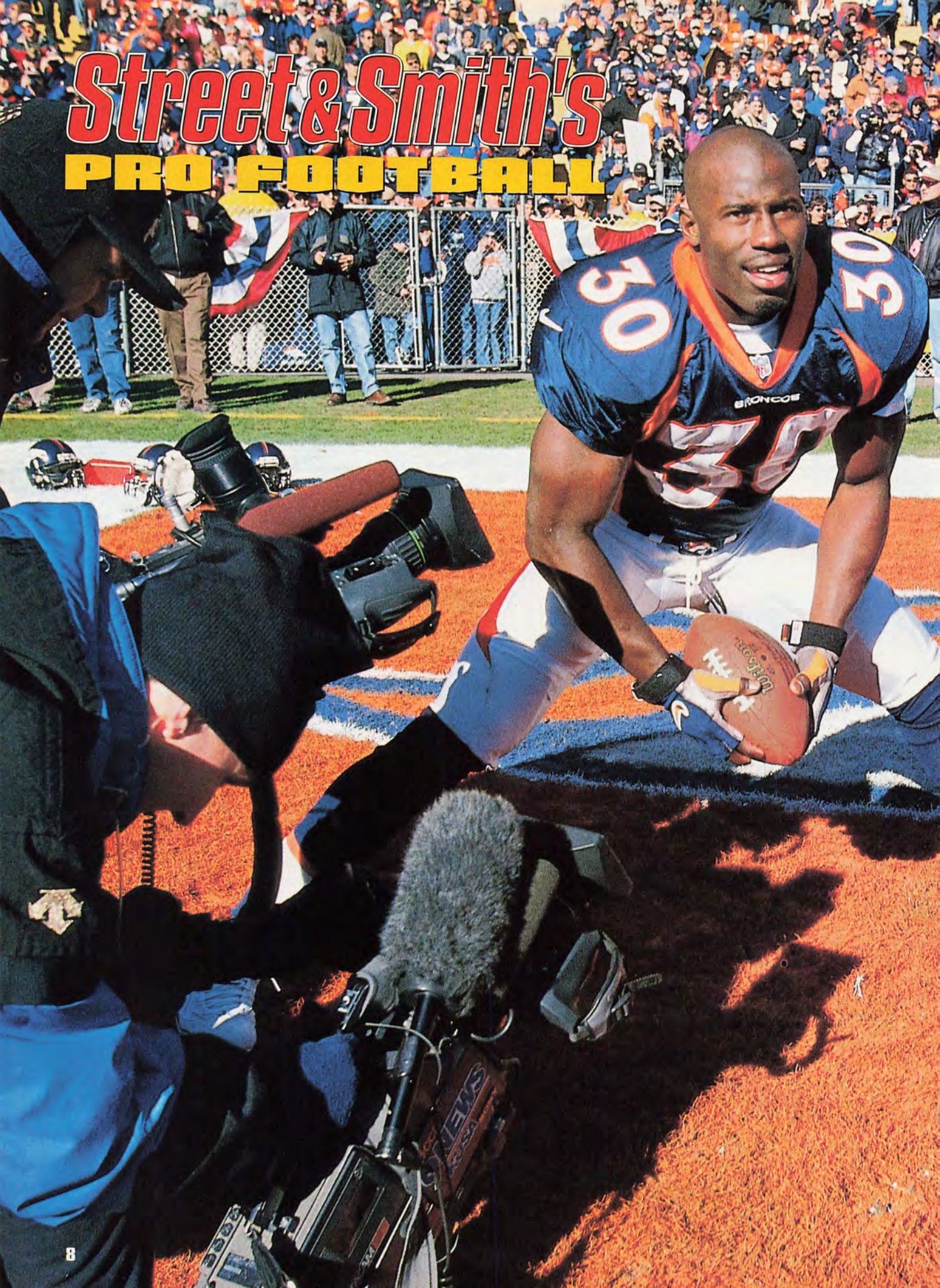
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# NUMBERS

LAST SEASON'S  
STATS REVEAL  
SOME SURPRISING  
DISCOVERIES

By STATS Inc.

## Who are the best quarterbacks when the game is on the line?

**R**emember that exciting Redskins-49ers Sunday night game last December? Washington trailed by 10 entering the fourth quarter, but with Brad Johnson throwing for 221 yards in the fourth quarter and overtime, the 'Skins pulled out a 26-20 win in OT. Late-game heroics such as those are actually the norm for Johnson; over the last five years, he's been the NFL's best quarterback in the fourth quarter and overtime when the score differential is seven points or less:

Passer	TD	INT	Rating
Brad Johnson	11	4	95.0
Brett Favre	13	6	91.4
John Elway	8	5	85.6
Dan Marino	11	5	85.6
Jake Plummer	6	5	85.3

(1995-99 with score differential seven points or less in fourth quarter or overtime; minimum 150 attempts)

Johnson actually didn't have great numbers in late-and-close situations in '99, with an ordinary passer rating of 78.7. But back in '97 with the Vikings, he was phenomenal, with a rating of 122.5. That stands as the best single-season, close-and-late rating by a passer with at least 40 attempts since '95. Johnson ranks higher on our list than bigger-name quarterbacks like Brett Favre, John Elway and Dan Marino.

In '99, Favre threw three game-winning TD passes in the final two minutes of the fourth quarter, but his close-and-late QB rating was only 78.4. Meanwhile, Jake Plummer ranks fifth on our list thanks largely to his stellar 1998 campaign, in which he led the Cardinals to seven wins that were decided in the fourth quarter or OT. Plummer's close-and-late rating that year was an impressive 91.4—still a far cry from Johnson's '97 effort.



## Are Super Bowls more competitive with a one-week layoff?

**T**he Rams' thrilling victory over the Titans in Super Bowl XXIV is generally regarded as the most exciting Super Bowl ever. Sharp-eyed observers also noted that this game, like the Giants' 20-19 victory over the Bills in Super Bowl XXV, was one of the few Super Bowls without a two-week layoff between the league championship games and the Super Bowl. Does skipping the second week of hoopla and hype lead to a more competitive game? Here are the figures:

	Games	Avg. Score Winner	Avg. Score Loser	Avg. Total Yds. Winner	Avg. Total Yds. Loser
One-Week Layoff	5	25	14	367	293
Two-Week Layoff	29	32	15	376	277

The five games with a one-week layoff were more competitive, with closer final scores and less difference in total yardage between the teams. Only one of the five games—the Cowboys' 30-13 win over the Bills in Super Bowl XXVIII—had a score differential as large as the average differential in the games with two-week layoffs. But though a one-week layoff might produce closer games, the NFL appears committed to sticking with two-week layoffs for most future Super Bowls.

ALLSPORT U.S.A.; ILLUSTRATION BY ANDREW BARTHELEMES





## Did Warner have the best season of any Super Bowl-winning quarterback?

**K**urt Warner capped a Cinderella season by passing the Rams to victory in Super Bowl XXXIV. For the entire season, including the playoffs, Warner threw 49 touchdown passes and passed for more than 5,000 yards. Is that the best season any Super Bowl-winning quarterback has ever had? Here's a list of the Super Bowl winners who have passed for at least 4,000 yards, thrown at least 35 touchdown passes and recorded a passer rating of 95.0 or higher in all games including the playoffs:

Year	Player, Team	Com.	Att.	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Int.	Rating
1989	Joe Montana, SF	336	469	71.6	4321	37	8	119.4
1994	Steve Young, SF	377	548	68.8	4592	44	10	113.5
1999	Kurt Warner, StL	402	620	64.8	5416	49	17	107.4
1984	Joe Montana, SF	346	540	64.1	4503	35	15	100.3
1996	Brett Favre, GB	369	614	60.1	4516	44	14	97.2

Warner tops the group in completions, yards and touchdown passes, but he's in some pretty impressive company. In 1989, Joe Montana completed more than 71 percent of his passes, culminating with a nearly flawless 22-for-29 performance as the 49ers trounced the Broncos, 55-10, in Super Bowl XXIV. Five years later, Steve Young capped a season in which he threw 44 touchdown passes and only 10 interceptions by throwing a record six scoring strikes in Super Bowl XXIX. Warner probably wouldn't mind being lumped with those guys as the passers who had the three best seasons a Super Bowl-winning quarterback ever had.

## Which teams will exploit the last-place schedule in 2000?

**S**ince 1978, when the NFL began the system of having last-place teams play each other the following year, 25 teams have converted a last-place schedule into a playoff berth in their follow-up season. Three teams have ridden that last-place schedule to the Super Bowl, but the 1999 St. Louis Rams were the first in that group to claim a league championship.

The Rams have to be an inspiration to the seven NFL clubs who finished fifth or sixth in 1999. Here's a breakdown of how the seven clubs performed last season:

Team	Overall	First 8 Games	Second 8 Games	Vs. Teams Above .500	Vs. Playoff Teams
New England Patriots	8-8-0	6-2-0	2-6-0	1-6-0	2-5-0
Cincinnati Bengals	4-12-0	1-7-0	3-5-0	0-7-0	0-7-0
Cleveland Browns	2-14-0	1-7-0	1-7-0	0-6-0	0-6-0
Denver Broncos	6-10-0	2-6-0	4-4-0	1-7-0	2-5-0
Philadelphia Eagles	5-11-0	2-6-0	3-5-0	2-5-0	3-6-0
Chicago Bears	6-10-0	3-5-0	3-5-0	2-6-0	2-7-0
New Orleans Saints	3-13-0	1-7-0	2-6-0	0-5-0	1-5-0

While the Bears and Eagles showed some life in the second half, the Broncos have to be the best bet to rebound and return to playoff contention. Despite the retirement of John Elway and crippling injuries to running back Terrell Davis, safety Eric Brown and linebacker John Mobley, the Broncos played tough against good teams and closed the year with a 4-4 finish after a horrible start. With those players coming back and an easier schedule to look forward to, Denver seems a good bet to return to the playoffs.

## Who are the best third-down backs?

**I**s there such a thing as a third-down back in the NFL, a back who comes in on third down primarily to catch passes? To a large extent, no. Last year only 20 running backs caught at least 10 passes on third down, and only 12 of them were not their team's primary ball-carrier. That said, we looked at the running backs who did the best job of turning third downs into first downs in '99, whether by running or catching the football.

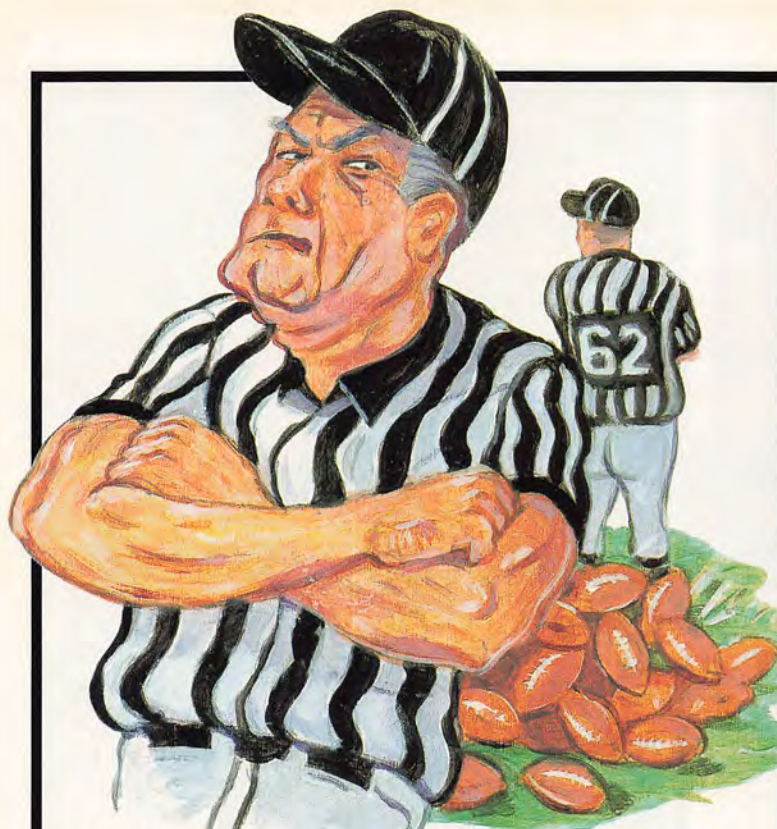
Washington's Stephen Davis, who tops the list, did not catch a pass on third down; all 17 of his touches were runs. It's not too surprising to see Davis atop the list. After all, he led all running backs (minimum 100 rushes) in overall percentage of first downs per rush.

Of the five backs on our list, only Fred Beasley and Tiki Barber had a significant number of third-down receptions. Beasley converted six of 10 third-down catches into first downs, and was successful on seven of his eight third-and-one rushes. Barber was four-for-five on third-down rushes, and eight-for-16 catching the football. Some would say Barber really is a third-down back. Perhaps he's a rare breed in today's NFL.

	3rd Down Touches	1st Downs	1st Down Percentage
Stephen Davis, Was	17	15	88.2
Jerome Bettis, Pit	21	14	66.7
Fred Beasley, SF	20	13	65.0
Terry Allen, NE	20	12	60.0
Tiki Barber, NYG	21	12	57.1







## What effect did the kicker-only footballs have?

There were groans in the kicking fraternity as soon as the NFL announced last year that kickers would no longer be allowed to prepare the balls to their liking before the games. Instead, referees kept control of the new footballs for kickers, stamping a small "K" on them. Kickers claimed they were being persecuted, saying that it was difficult to kick the "K" balls as far as the old ones. So what was the effect? Here are the numbers:

Category	1995-98	1998	1999
Field Goal Pct.	78.7	79.6	77.7
18-19 Yard FG Pct.	96.2	90.9	100.0
20-29 Yard FG Pct.	93.9	95.2	94.6
30-39 Yard FG Pct.	83.9	85.0	79.9
40-49 Yard FG Pct.	65.3	69.6	67.5
50+ Yard FG Pct.	52.2	54.0	48.2
Extra Point Pct.	98.4	98.3	98.9
Avg. Yards per Kickoff	64.5	65.7	63.3
Touchback Pct. on Kickoffs	12.8	16.6	10.4

*(kickoffs don't include onside kicks)*

The overall effect on kickers was far from drastic. Compared with 1998, accuracy on field-goal attempts dropped from every range greater than 18 to 19 yards, including a 5.8 percent tumble on tries of more than 50 yards. But keep in mind that 1998's overall percentage of 79.6 was the second-highest in NFL history. The 1999 figures compare very favorably to 1995-98 as a whole, and last year ranked as the fifth-most successful field-goal kicking season in league annals.

The "K" balls may have had more of an impact on kickoffs. The average distance of kickoffs (63.3 yards) and percentage of touchbacks (10.4), not including onside kicks, fell to their lowest levels since 1995.

## Has any team ever been as consistent as the 1999 Rams?

Any game plan against the 1999 Rams had to include one very specific goal: score more than 21 points. St. Louis became just the sixth team in history to put up 21 or more points in every regular-season contest. Here's the group, sorted by average points per game:

Year	Team	Games	Points	Avg.	Record
1998	Vikings	16	556	34.8	15-1
1983	Redskins	16	541	33.8	14-2
1999	Rams	16	526	32.9	13-3
1984	Dolphins	16	513	32.1	14-2
1959	Colts	12	374	31.2	9-3
1953	Rams	12	366	30.5	8-3-1

Since 1970, teams that have scored at least 21 points in a game have won nearly 77 percent of the time, so it's hardly surprising that the above six clubs posted a combined 76-12 (.864) record. What is surprising is that only two of the six won a championship: the '99 Rams and the '59 Colts. The '83 Redskins and '84 Dolphins both fell in the Super Bowl, as both failed to reach the 21-point mark in the penultimate game.



The '53 Los Angeles Rams didn't have the defense to match their offense, and the Rams didn't play postseason football. The '98 Vikings also never made it to the big game. But don't blame the offense, which scored 27 points in the NFC Championship Game. Unfortunately for long-suffering Minnesota fans, the Falcons scored 30 in that contest.



## WHICH RUNNING BACKS DESPISE ARTIFICIAL TURF AND WHICH ONES THRIVE ON IT?

**D**idn't the Detroit Lions know? Searching for a running back this off-season, the Lions settled on free agent James Stewart, formerly of the Jaguars. Bringing Stewart to a team that plays its home games on artificial turf may not be a great idea. Over his five-year career, Stewart's yards-per-carry average on grass is 0.62 yards better than his average on turf. No active NFL back has shown more of a preference for grass over the past decade. Here are the active runners with the largest differences between their yards per carry on grass as opposed to turf, since 1991:

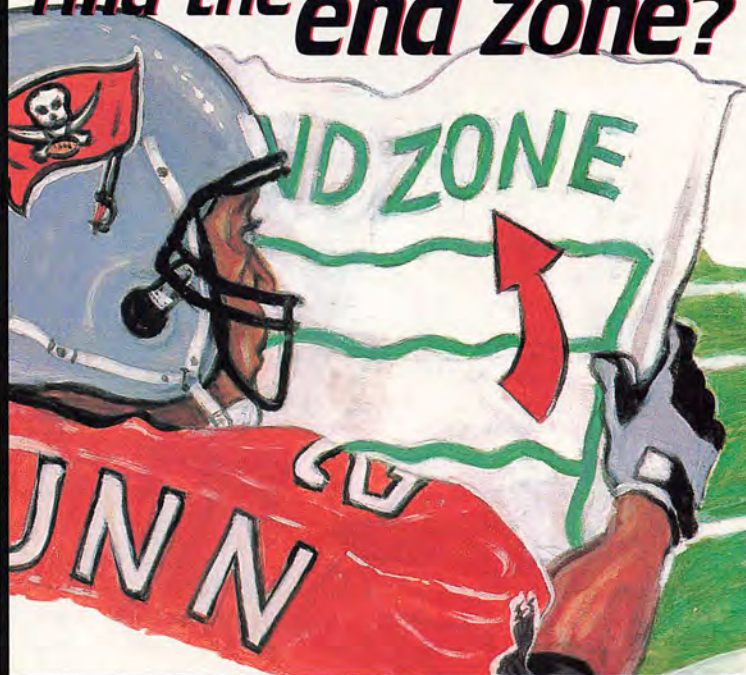
	Yds./Rush Grass	Yds./Rush Turf	Diff.
James Stewart	4.03	3.41	0.62
Tyrone Wheatley	3.98	3.45	0.53
Corey Dillon	4.95	4.47	0.48
Warrick Dunn	3.75	4.30	-0.55
Napoleon Kaufman	4.68	5.46	-0.78
Antowain Smith	2.76	4.28	-1.52

(minimum 500 rushes since 1991)

While Stewart favors grass more than any other back, Buffalo's Antowain Smith is just the opposite, with his yards per carry on turf a whopping 1.52 yards better than his average on grass. The Raiders, meanwhile, have an interesting situation in their backfield. They've got Tyrone Wheatley, who thrives on grass, along with turf-loving Napoleon Kaufman. The Raiders might be well-served giving the ball to Wheatley in their home games but featuring Kaufman when they make their annual trek to Seattle. Kaufman might be the only disappointed player in the NFL when the Seahawks eventually move to their outdoor stadium.



## Which runners can't find the end zone?



**I**n 1991, Redskins running back Gerald Riggs scored 11 rushing touchdowns. What's so special about that? Not much, except when you consider that he carried the ball just 78 times that season. On the opposite end of the spectrum in 1999 were the following five players, who had the most carries last year without a single rushing score:

Player, Team	Carries
Warrick Dunn, TB	195
Adrian Murrell, Ari	193
Ron Rivers, Det	82
Tiki Barber, NYG	62
Michael Basnight, Cin	62

Over the past two seasons, the end zone has been a very elusive place for Tampa Bay's Warrick Dunn. During that span, he has carried the ball 440 times with just two rushing scores—both coming in 1998. At least Dunn pocketed a pair of receiving touchdowns last season, which was more than could be said for Adrian Murrell. The Cardinals' on-again, off-again starter in '99, Murrell "touched" (rushes + receptions) the ball 242 times but never found pay dirt. The only other player on our list who also failed to register a receiving touchdown last year was Bengals rookie Michael Basnight. It may be early in his career, but Basnight has a long way to go before he'll be drawing any comparisons to Gerald Riggs.



# TARGETS



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active players in 1999 in caps

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CRIS CARTER

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Lenny Moore	113
Barry Sanders	109
Don Hutson	105
Steve Largent	101
Franco Harris	100
Eric Dickerson	96
Jim Taylor	93
Tony Dorsett	91
Bobby Mitchell	91
Leroy Kelly	90
Charley Taylor	90
Don Maynard	88
Lance Alworth	87
ANDRE REED	87
THURMAN THOMAS	87
Ottis Anderson	86
Paul Warfield	86
Mark Clayton	85
Tommy McDonald	85
Herschel Walker	84
IRVING FRYAR	83
Pete Johnson	82
Art Powell	82
RICKY WATTERS	81
James Brooks	79
TIM BROWN	79
Harold Carmichael	79
Frank Gifford	78
ANDRE RISON	78

Fred Biletnikoff	77
Steve Van Buren	77
Bill Brown	76
Chuck Foreman	76
Bob Hayes	76
Harold Jackson	76
James Lofton	76
O.J. Simpson	76

## POINTS

George Blanda	2,002
GARY ANDERSON	1,948
MORTEN ANDERSEN	1,840
NORM JOHNSON	1,736
Nick Lowery	1,711
Jan Stenerud	1,699
EDDIE MURRAY	1,563
Pat Leahy	1,470
AL DEL GRECO	1,466
Jim Turner	1,439
Matt Bahr	1,422
Mark Moseley	1,382
Jim Bakken	1,380
Fred Cox	1,365
Lou Groza	1,349
Jim Breech	1,246
Chris Bahr	1,213
Kevin Butler	1,208
PETE STOYANOVICH	1,195
Gino Cappelletti	1,130
Ray Wersching	1,122
JERRY RICE	1,088
Don Cockroft	1,080
Garó Yepremian	1,074
STEVE CHRISTIE	1,065
Bruce Gossett	1,031
JEFF JAEGER	1,008
JOHN CARNEY	1,007
Sam Baker	977
Greg Davis	962
Rafael Septien	960
Lou Michaels	955
CHRIS JACKIE	944
Fuad Reveiz	931
Chip Lohmiller	913
Roy Gerela	903
EMMITT SMITH	884
MATT STOVER	884
Bobby Walston	881
Tony Zendejas	874
JOHN KASAY	873
Marcus Allen	872
Tony Franklin	872
Pete Gogolak	863
JASON HANSON	857
JASON ELAM	846
Errol Mann	846

## TOUCHDOWN PASSES

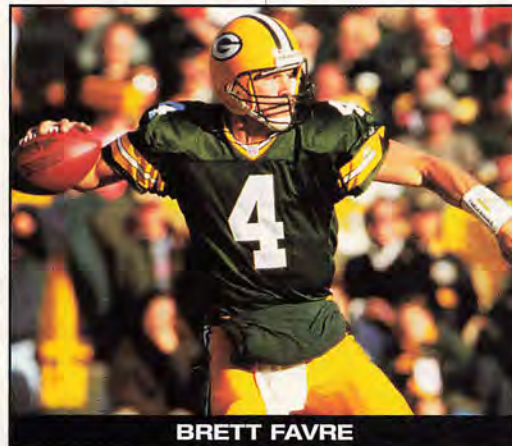
DAN MARINO	420
Fran Tarkenton	342
John Elway	300
WARREN MOON	290
Johnny Unitas	290
Joe Montana	273
Dave Krieg	261
Sonny Jurgensen	255
Dan Fouts	254
Boomer Esiason	247
John Hadl	244
Len Dawson	239
Jim Kelly	237
George Blanda	236
BRETT FAVRE	235
STEVE YOUNG	232
John Brodie	214
Terry Bradshaw	212
Y.A. Tittle	212
Jim Hart	209
VINNY TESTAVERDE	205
Jim Everett	203
Roman Gabriel	201
Phil Simms	199
RANDALL CUNNINGHAM	198
Ken Anderson	197
Steve DeBerg	196
Joe Ferguson	196
Bobby Layne	196
Norm Snead	196
Ken Stabler	194
Bob Griese	192
Sammy Baugh	187
Craig Morton	183
Steve Grogan	182
Ron Jaworski	179
Babe Parilli	178

## PASSING YARDAGE

DAN MARINO	61,361
John Elway	51,475
WARREN MOON	49,117
Fran Tarkenton	47,003
Dan Fouts	43,040
Joe Montana	40,551
Johnny Unitas	40,239
Dave Krieg	38,147
Boomer Esiason	37,920
Jim Kelly	35,467
Jim Everett	34,837

Jim Hart	34,665
Steve DeBerg	34,241
John Hadl	33,503
Phil Simms	33,462
STEVE YOUNG	33,124
Ken Anderson	32,838
VINNY TESTAVERDE	32,575
Sonny Jurgensen	32,224
John Brodie	31,548
TROY AIKMAN	31,310
BRETT FAVRE	30,894
Norm Snead	30,797
Joe Ferguson	29,817
Roman Gabriel	29,444
Len Dawson	28,711
R. CUNNINGHAM	28,557
Y.A. Tittle	28,339
Ron Jaworski	28,190
Terry Bradshaw	27,989
Ken Stabler	27,938
Craig Morton	27,908
Joe Namath	27,663

Fran Tarkenton	3,686
Joe Montana	3,409
Dan Fouts	3,297
Dave Krieg	3,105
Boomer Esiason	2,969
Steve DeBerg	2,874
Jim Kelly	2,874
Jim Everett	2,841
Johnny Unitas	2,830
TROY AIKMAN	2,742
STEVE YOUNG	2,667
BRETT FAVRE	2,659
Ken Anderson	2,654
Jim Hart	2,593
Phil Simms	2,576
VINNY TESTAVERDE	2,569
John Brodie	2,469
Sonny Jurgensen	2,433
Joe Ferguson	2,369
Roman Gabriel	2,366
John Hadl	2,363
R. CUNNINGHAM	2,301



BRETT FAVRE

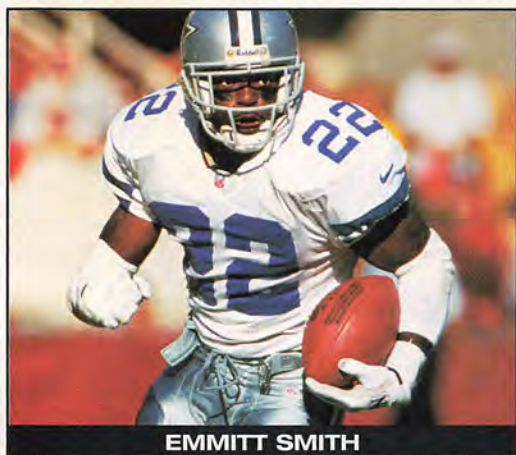
George Blanda	26,920
Steve Grogan	26,886
Bobby Layne	26,768
JEFF GEORGE	26,045
DREW BLEDSOE	25,966
Jim Plunkett	25,882
Joe Theismann	25,206
Ken O'Brien	25,094
Bob Griese	25,092
JIM HARBAUGH	24,872
Tommy Kramer	24,777
Bart Starr	24,718

## PASS COMPLETIONS

DAN MARINO	4,967
John Elway	4,123
WARREN MOON	3,973

Norm Snead	2,276
Ken Stabler	2,270
DREW BLEDSOE	2,192
Ron Jaworski	2,187
JIM HARBAUGH	2,182
JEFF GEORGE	2,162
Len Dawson	2,136
Y.A. Tittle	2,118
Ken O'Brien	2,110
Craig Morton	2,053
Joe Theismann	2,044
Terry Bradshaw	2,025
Tommy Kramer	2,012
Archie Manning	2,011
Bernie Kosar	1,994
Brian Sipe	1,944
Jim Plunkett	1,943
Steve Bartkowski	1,932





**EMMITT SMITH**

Bob Griese	1,926
George Blanda	1,911
Joe Namath	1,886
Steve Grogan	1,879
Bobby Hebert	1,839
Neil Lomax	1,817
Bobby Layne	1,814

### RUSHING YARDAGE

Walter Payton	16,726
Barry Sanders	15,269
EMMITT SMITH	13,963
Eric Dickerson	13,259
Tony Dorsett	12,739
Jim Brown	12,312
Marcus Allen	12,243
Franco Harris	12,120
THURMAN THOMAS	11,938
John Riggins	11,352
O.J. Simpson	11,236
Ottis Anderson	10,273
Earl Campbell	9,407
RICKY WATTERS	9,083
Jim Taylor	8,597
JEROME BETTIS	8,463
Joe Perry	8,378
Ernest Byner	8,261
Herschel Walker	8,225
Roger Craig	8,189
Gerald Riggs	8,188
Larry Csonka	8,081
Freeman McNeil	8,074
James Brooks	7,962
TERRY ALLEN	7,777
CHRIS WARREN	7,400
Mike Pruitt	7,378
Leroy Kelly	7,274
George Rogers	7,176
Rodney Hampton	6,897
Curt Warner	6,844
John Henry Johnson	6,803
Wilbert Montgomery	6,789
Chuck Muncie	6,702
MARSHALL FAULK	6,701
Mark van Eeghen	6,651
TERRELL DAVIS	6,624
Lawrence McCutcheon	6,578
CURTIS MARTIN	6,550
Lydell Mitchell	6,534
Wendell Tyler	6,378

### RECEPTIONS

JERRY RICE	1,206
ANDRE REED	941
Art Monk	940
CRIS CARTER	924
Steve Largent	819
Henry Ellard	814
IRVING FRYAR	810
TIM BROWN	770
James Lofton	764
MICHAEL IRVIN	750
Charlie Joiner	750
ANDRE RISON	702
Gary Clark	699
Ozzie Newsome	662
Charley Taylor	649
Drew Hill	634
Don Maynard	633
Raymond Berry	631
ROB MOORE	628
HERMAN MOORE	626
Keith Byars	610
LARRY CENTERS	604
Anthony Miller	595
Sterling Sharpe	595
Harold Carmichael	590
Fred Biletnikoff	589
Marcus Allen	587
Bill Brooks	583
Mark Clayton	582
Brian Blades	581
Ronnie Harmon	581



**JERRY RICE**

Harold Jackson	579
Ernest Givins	571
Mark Carrier	569
Lionel Taylor	567
Roger Craig	566
Webster Slaughter	563
Wes Chandler	559
Roy Green	559
TERANCE MATHIS	558
Stanley Morgan	557
Eric Martin	553
SHANNON SHARPE	552
John L. Williams	546
J.T. Smith	544
Lance Alworth	542
Kellen Winslow	541
ERIC METCALF	537
John Stallworth	537
Haywood Jeffries	535

### RECEIVING YARDS

JERRY RICE	18,442
James Lofton	14,004
Henry Ellard	13,777
ANDRE REED	13,095
Steve Largent	13,089
Art Monk	12,721
IRVING FRYAR	12,237
Charlie Joiner	12,146
MICHAEL IRVIN	11,904
Don Maynard	11,834
CRIS CARTER	11,688
TIM BROWN	10,944
Gary Clark	10,856
Stanley Morgan	10,716
Harold Jackson	10,372
Lance Alworth	10,266
Drew Hill	9,831
ANDRE RISON	9,599
ROB MOORE	9,368
Raymond Berry	9,275
Anthony Miller	9,148
Charley Taylor	9,110
Harold Carmichael	8,985
Fred Biletnikoff	8,974
Mark Clayton	8,974
Wes Chandler	8,966
Roy Green	8,965
Mark Duper	8,869
Mark Carrier	8,763
John Stallworth	8,723
Cliff Branch	8,685
HERMAN MOORE	8,664
Paul Warfield	8,565
Billy Howton	8,459
Tommy McDonald	8,410
Wesley Walker	8,306
Carroll Dale	8,277
Ernest Givins	8,215
Eric Martin	8,161
Sterling Sharpe	8,134
TONY MARTIN	8,124
Webster Slaughter	8,111
Haven Moses	8,091
Art Powell	8,046
Bill Brooks	8,001
Don Hutson	7,991
Tony Hill	7,988

Ozzie Newsome	7,980
Bobby Mitchell	7,954
Jackie Smith	7,918

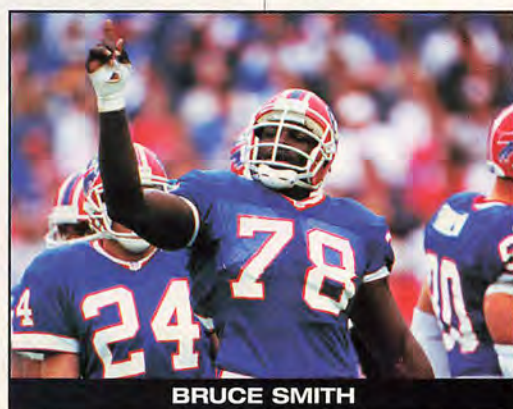
### INTERCEPTIONS

Paul Krause	81
Emlen Tunnell	79
Dick "Night Train" Lane	68
Ken Riley	65
Ronnie Lott	63
Dave Brown	62
Dick LeBeau	62
Emmitt Thomas	58
Mel Blount	57
Bobby Boyd	57
Johnny Robinson	57
Everson Walls	57
Lem Barney	56
Pat Fischer	56
EUGENE ROBINSON	56
Willie Brown	54
ROD WOODSON	54
Jack Butler	52
Bobby Dillon	52
Jimmy Patton	52
Mel Renfro	52

DEION SANDERS	44
Kermit Alexander	43

### SACKS

Reggie White	192.5
BRUCE SMITH	171.0
KEVIN GREENE	160.0
CHRIS DOLEMAN	150.5
Richard Dent	137.5
LESLIE O'NEAL	132.5
Lawrence Taylor	132.5
Rickey Jackson	128.0
DERRICK THOMAS	126.5
Clyde Simmons	121.0
Sean Jones	113.0
Greg Townsend	109.5
Pat Swilling	107.5
JOHN RANDLE	106.0
NEIL SMITH	104.5
Jim Jeffcoat	102.5
William Fuller	100.5
Charles Haley	100.5
Andre Tippett	100.0
Simon Fletcher	97.5
Jacob Green	97.5
Dexter Manley	97.5

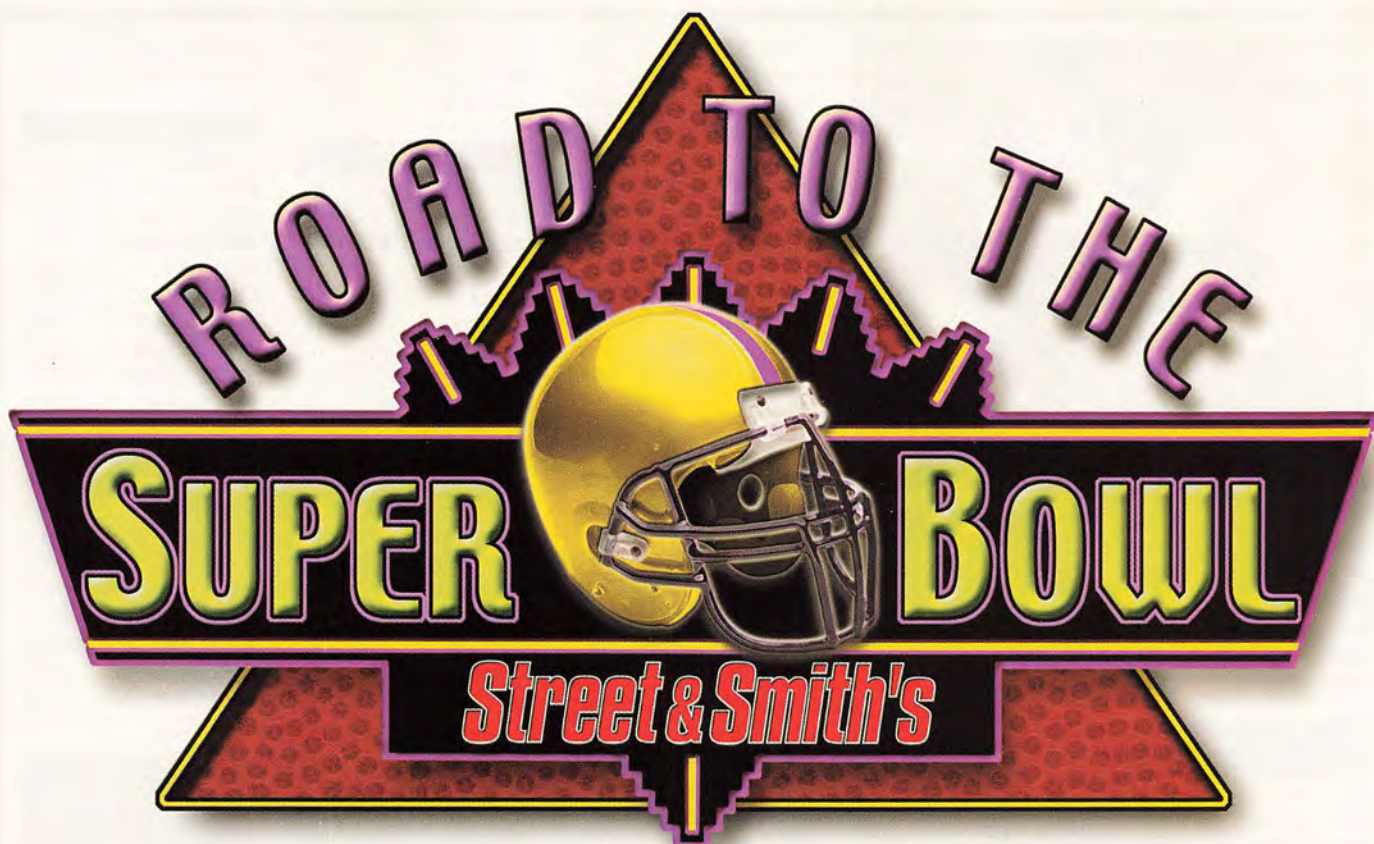


**BRUCE SMITH**

Larry Wilson	52
Bobby Bryant	51
Donnie Shell	51
Don Burroughs	50
Deron Cherry	50
DARRELL GREEN	50
John Harris	50
Yale Lary	50
Ken Houston	49
Jake Scott	49
Herb Adderley	48
Dave Grayson	48
Richie Petitbon	48
Dave Waymer	48
Willie Wood	48
ERIC ALLEN	47
Jim Johnson	47
Lemar Parrish	47
Jack Christiansen	46
Goose Gosoulin	46
Mike Haynes	46
Ed Meador	46
Dave Whitsell	46
Erich Barnes	45
Thom Darden	45
Jim Norton	45
Steve Foley	44

Steve McMichael	95.0
Ken Harvey	89.0
HENRY THOMAS	89.0
Howie Long	84.0
Leonard Marshall	83.5
Charles Mann	83.0
WAYNE MARTIN	82.5
Lee Williams	82.5
TRACE ARMSTRONG	82.0
Tim Harris	81.0
Karl Mecklenburg	79.0
Ray Childress	76.5
Mark Gastineau	74.0
BRYCE PAUP	73.0
Clay Matthews	69.5
CORNELIUS BENNETT	68.5
Freddie Joe Nunn	67.5
ROBERT PORCHER	66.5
MICHAEL SINCLAIR	66.5
Al Baker	65.5
Tony Bennett	64.5
Jeff Bryant	63.0
Michael Cofer	62.5
Jumpy Geathers	62.0
Michael Dean Perry	61.0
Jeff Cross	59.5
ALFRED WILLIAMS	59.5





# GRAND PRIZE

## Two tickets to the 2001 Super Bowl

**First: \$750 Second: \$500 Third: \$250 Fourth: \$125**

**Consolation prizes: 25 Street & Smith's golf shirts (indicate size on entry)**

Please print:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

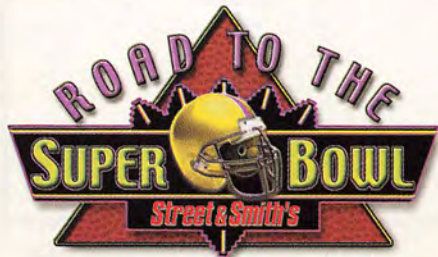
Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Shirt Size: (circle one) M L XL

Mail to:

Street & Smith's  
Sports Annuals  
120 W. Morehead Street  
Suite 230  
Charlotte, NC 28202

**Deadline for entries:  
SEPTEMBER 15, 2000**



### CONTEST RULES

1. No purchase necessary. A facsimile entry form will be mailed free to anyone requesting it. Please write to: Road to the Super Bowl Contest, Street & Smith's Sports Annuals, 120 W. Morehead Street, Suite 230, Charlotte, N.C. 28202. Requests may also be faxed to Street & Smith's at (704) 973-1576.
2. One entry per person, please.
3. Entries must be mailed to: Road to the Super Bowl Contest, Street & Smith's Sports Annuals, 120 W. Morehead Street, Suite 230, Charlotte, N.C. 28202. Faxes and e-mails will not be accepted.
4. DEADLINE FOR ALL ENTRIES IS SEPTEMBER 15, 2000.
5. All prizes will be awarded based on a random drawing of entries. The decisions of the judges are final. Winners will be contacted by mail not later than November 15, 2000. A list of winners will be available after December 15, 2000 by writing or faxing Street & Smith's at the above address or fax number.
6. Employees of Street & Smith's Sports Group and its parent, American City Business Journals, Inc., and members of their immediate families, are not eligible to participate.



THE GREATEST PLAYERS OF THE 20TH CENTURY,  
AS SELECTED BY PRO FOOTBALL FANS ACROSS AMERICA

# *Street & Smith's* ALL-MILLENNIUM PRO FOOTBALL TEAM

Special Section

by Ellen Zavian  
design by Marlow Palleja



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**SPORTS**

The nation's largest 24-hour  
sports-talk radio network



**Foot Locker.**

My MusicCard  
TAKE NOTE

The Tropicana Casino and Resort in Atlantic City will host  
the All-Millennium Team Awards gala on July 15 through 17.



**\$15,000  
Cash Grand  
Prize!**



**America's  
Favorite  
Point-Style  
Game!**

**Play by phone at  
1-888-676-2248  
or via the Internet at:  
<http://football.cdmsports.com>**

**Enter by July 15th  
for only \$29.95!**

**LOOK AT THE GREAT CASH PRIZES THE BEST OWNERS WILL EARN!**

3 WAYS TO WIN	Finish 1st	Finish 2nd	Finish 3rd	Finish 4th	Finish 5th	Finish 6-10	Finish 11-25	Finish 26-100	Finish 101-200	Finish 201-250
<b>OVERALL</b> (All Teams)	\$15,000 CASH	\$5,000 CASH	\$2,500 CASH	\$1,500 CASH	\$1,000 CASH	\$750 CASH	\$500 CASH	\$250 CASH	\$100 CASH	\$50 CASH
<b>LEAGUE</b> (25 Teams)	\$500 CASH	\$250 CASH	\$100 CASH	\$50 CASH	\$25 CASH	Plus! A 50% off entry coupon to next year's game will be awarded to each of the 24 teams in the league with the Grand Prize Winner!				
<b>WEEKLY</b> (All Teams)	\$100 CASH	\$50 CASH	\$30 CASH	\$20 CASH	\$10 CASH	Congratulations! To Last Year's Winner Jeremy Ophus, Bellevue, WA				

**ENTRY COST**

Entry Deadline	First Entry	Additional Entries
July 15	<b>\$29.95</b>	<b>\$29.95</b>
Aug. 12	<b>\$39.95</b>	<b>\$34.95</b>
Sept. 2	<b>\$49.95</b>	<b>\$44.95</b>

**Last Year's Team Owners Shared  
\$420,350 In Cash Prizes**

**SCORING**

<b>PASSING</b> Passing TD ..... 3 Points 20 Passing Yds* ..... 1 Point	<b>KICKING</b> Field Goal ..... 3 Points Extra Point ..... 1 Point
<b>RECEIVING</b> Receiving TD ..... 3 Points 10 Receiving Yds** ..... 1 Point 2 pt. Conversion ..... 2 Points	<b>DEFENSE/SPECIAL TEAMS</b> Shutout ..... 15 Points 1-10 Pts Allowed ..... 10 Points 11-20 Pts Allowed ..... 5 Points Safety ..... 2 Points
<b>RUSHING</b> Rushing TD ..... 6 Points 10 Rushing Yds** ..... 1 Point 2 pt. Conversion ..... 2 Points	<b>Any Defensive or Special Teams TD ..... 6 Points</b>
<b>OTHER TD's BY PLAYER</b> Any other TD ..... 6 Points Such as KO Return, Punt Return, Interception Return or a Recovery	<b>TEAM VICTORY</b> Each Player ..... 3 Points Def/Special Team ..... 3 Points

\*0.05 Point awarded for each passing yard  
\*\*0.10 Point awarded for each rushing or receiving yard

- Teams in each league are sorted by each team's total points. The team with the highest point total will be first and the team with the lowest point total will be last.
- To determine overall standings, all teams in *CDM Fantasy Football* are sorted by each team's total points.
- Points are accumulated weekly for all 22 starting players and defense/special teams. The week begins with games played on Thursday and ends with games played on Monday. The game begins with Week 1.
- For each of your starting players whose NFL team wins that week, you will get three points. If your starting defense wins that week, you will get three points.
- Defense points allowed is based on the final score of the game versus the defense/special team selected.
- Yards from defense/special teams' returns do not count.
- Two point conversion points are awarded to the player scoring the conversion.
- Teams will receive 0.05 points for each passing yard and 0.10 points for each receiving or rushing yard.
- All points accumulated by the players on the starting lineup, regardless of what position they play during the season, contribute to a team's point totals.
- A player's points are added to your team's point totals only during the weeks that he is in your starting lineup.
- Bench players' points do not contribute to your team's point totals for the weeks they are not in the starting lineup.
- Points by a player before he was on your roster do not count.

- Pre-season, playoff, and pro bowl points do not contribute to your team's point totals.
- To determine weekly winners each Tuesday, the point totals from games played the previous 5 days (Thursday-Monday) will be used. First prizes will be awarded September 12, 2000, and will be based on games played September 10-11.

**LEAGUE**

- Leagues are formed on a first-come, first-served basis.
- 25 teams form a league.
- All teams compete for the overall grand prize.
- Play in the same league with your friends. For details call 1-888-676-2248 or visit our Internet site at:

<http://football.cdmsports.com>

**LINEUP**

- Starting lineup consists of:

3-Kickers	2-Tight Ends
3-Quarterbacks	6-Wide Receivers
6-Running Backs	2-Defense/Special Teams

- Starting lineup value cannot exceed \$60,000,000.
- The bench consists of any 11 players and/or defense/special teams. They are your backups and may be placed onto your starting lineup for any reason: injury, poor performance, match-ups, etc.
- Value cap and position distribution rules do not apply for the bench, but do apply when switched onto the starting lineup.
- Unlisted players have a value of \$1,500,000. They must be placed on the bench until Week 2.

**STANDINGS**

- Receive a four-page report weekly or bi-weekly. You automatically receive bi-weekly standings with your entry fee. (First standings mailed September 13th.)
- Bi-weekly standings include the lineup changes of the 25 teams in your league. Know what you are competing against!
- Updated league rosters and top 5 overall sent the weeks of September 18th and October 23rd.
- \$10 for standings to be mailed to a second address.
- \$10 per address per team for standings to be mailed weekly rather than bi-weekly.
- Standings are also available via the Internet. Call for details.
- Fax service available. Call 1-888-676-2248 for details.

**PLAYER CHANGES**

- To make lineup changes, a toll-free number and an account number will be provided, or you may make them via the Internet.
- The deadline for weekly lineup changes is Saturday at 9 PM CT for Sunday and Monday games, or by 9 PM CT the night before any other game (changes for Thursday games must be made by 9 PM Wednesday night). The first roster change deadline is Saturday, September 9, 2000.
- The fees for lineup changes are as follows:  
Any player move before the season starts (unlimited) ..... \$1 each  
Bench Switch (unlimited) ..... \$2 each  
New Player Purchase (limit 10) ..... \$5 each  
Bye Week Bench Switch (in or out) ..... \$1 each

**ADDITIONAL RULES**

- CDM Fantasy Football* welcomes entries from around the world. All fees, however, must be paid with U.S. funds. For Canadian, Mexican and overseas entries, please add \$15 to cover additional mailing costs.
- Player changes cannot be made until your team has been entered into the computer database. Mailed and faxed teams will be entered within five working days of receipt.
- Not responsible for lost, late, stolen or misdirected entries or player changes.
- Our toll line is 314-991-1511. Our fax number is 314-991-1564.
- If you submit multiple entries, please specify if you would like the teams entered in the same or different leagues. Limit 6 teams per customer per one league.
- If you and your friends would like to be in the same league, please mail the entry forms in together and specify "Same League" or call for special instructions. Limit 6 friends' teams per one league.
- CDM Fantasy Football* is not affiliated in any way with the National Football League.
- Contest is subject to all United States Federal and State laws. *CDM Fantasy Football* may not be used for any form of gambling.
- No employees of CDM, Inc. or their families are eligible to play.





Positions and values, as listed here, remain the same all season. N/A indicates that player was not with a team as of May 8, 2000.

## KICKER

No	PLAYER	TM	VAL
1	ANDERSON, GARY	MIN	3050
2	VANDERJAGT, MIKE	IND	2900
3	HOLLIS, MIKE	JAC	2890
4	ELAM, JASON	DEN	2850
5	LONGWELL, RYAN	GB	2810
6	MARE, OLINDO	MIA	2800
7	DEL GRECO, AL	TEN	2760
8	VINATIERI, ADAM	NE	2710
9	HALL, JOHN	NYJ	2700
10	CHRISTIE, STEVE	BUF	2650
11	HANSON, JASON	DET	2620
12	STOYANOVICH, PETE	KC	2610
13	PETERSON, TODD	SEA	2600
14	GRAMATICA, MARTIN	TB	2470
15	WILKINS, JEFF	STL	2460
16	BROWN, KRIS	PIT	2450
17	STOVER, MATT	BAL	2430
18	ANDERSEN, MORTON	ATL	2350
19	CUNNINGHAM, RICHIE	N/A	2300
20	RICHIE, WADE	SF	2280
21	JOHNSON, NORM	N/A	2200
22	KASAY, JOHN	CAR	2190
23	MURRAY, EDDIE	DAL	2180
24	BRIEN, DOUG	NO	2130
25	CONWAY, BRETT	WAS	2100
26	HUSTED, MICHAEL	RAI	1980
27	BLANCHARD, CARY	ARZ	1970
28	CARNEY, JOHN	SD	1850
29	PELFREY, DOUG	CIN	1830
30	DALUISO, BRAD	NYG	1690
31	DAWSON, PHIL	CLE	1510
32	HOLMES, JARET	CHI	1000

## QUARTERBACK

No	PLAYER	TM	VAL
101	WARNER, KURT	STL	7150
102	MANNING, PEYTON	IND	7130
103	FAVRE, BRETT	GB	6570
104	BEUERLEIN, STEVE	CAR	6190
105	BLEDSE, DREW	NE	5690
106	MCNAIR, STEVE	TEN	5570
107	BRUNELL, MARK	JAC	5210
108	GANNON, RICH	RAI	4820
109	JOHNSON, BRAD	WAS	4690
110	KITNA, JON	SEA	4670
111	TESTAVERDE, VINNY	NYJ	4610
112	FLUTIE, DOUG	BUF	4510
113	STEWART, KORDELL	PIT	4480
114	CHANDLER, CHRIS	ATL	4440
115	AIKMAN, TROY	DAL	4390
116	PLUMMER, JAKE	ARZ	4260
117	BLAKE, JEFF	NO	4250
118	JOHNSON, ROB	BUF	4220
119	BANKS, TONY	BAL	4040
120	BATCH, CHARLIE	DET	3940
121	YOUNG, STEVE	SF	3880
122	GRBAC, ELVIS	KC	3790
123	MCOWAN, CADE	CHI	3740
124	COUCH, TIM	CLE	3730
125	DILFER, TRENT	BAL	3720
126	GARCIA, JEFF	SF	3700
127	GEORGE, JEFF	WAS	3680
128	GRIESE, BRIAN	DEN	3550
129	HARBAUGH, JIM	SD	3550
130	COLLINGS, KERRY	NYG	3430
131	KING, SHAUN	TB	3430
132	MCNABB, DONOVAN	PHI	3380
133	CUNNINGHAM, RANDALL	N/A	3360
134	SMITH, AKILI	CIN	3030
135	FREROTTE, GUS	DEN	2880
136	GREEN, TRENT	STL	2140
137	CULPEPPER, DANTE	MIN	1820
138	HUARD, DAMON	MIA	1520
139	BRISTER, BUBBY	MIN	1510
140	O'DONNELL, NEIL	TEN	1500
141	FIEDLER, JAY	MIA	1490
142	MOON, WARREN	KC	1320
143	MITCHELL, SCOTT	CIN	1200

## RUNNING BACK

No	PLAYER	TM	VAL
201	JAMES, EDGERRIN	IND	6000
202	FAULK, MARSHALL	STL	5790
203	TAYLOR, FRED	JAC	5490
204	DAVIS, TERRELL	DEN	5420
205	GEORGE, EDDIE	TEN	4680
206	SMITH, EMMITT	DAL	4530
207	STALEY, DUCE	PHI	4510
208	DAVIS, STEPHEN	WAS	4370
209	MARTIN, CURTIS	NYJ	4290
210	LEVENS, DORSEY	GB	3970
211	ANDERSON, JAMAL	ATL	3930
212	WATERS, RICKY	SEA	3910
213	DILLON, COREY	CIN	3890
214	SANDERS, BARRY	N/A	3870

## RUNNING BACK (cont)

No	PLAYER	TM	VAL
215	STEWART, JAMES T	DET	3850
216	WILLIAMS, RICKY	NO	3810
217	BETTIS, JEROME	PIT	3800
218	SMITH, ROBERT	MIN	3430
219	ALSTOTT, MIKE	TB	3350
220	GARNER, CHARLIE	SF	3140
221	DUNN, WARRICK	TB	3130
222	BIAKABUTUKA, TIM	CAR	3040
223	SMITH, ANTOUAIN	BUF	3020
224	GARY, OLANDIS	DEN	3010
225	LINTON, JONATHAN	BUF	2990
226	KAUFMAN, NAPOLEON	RAI	2940
227	JOHNSON, JAMES	MIA	2910
228	ENIS, CURTIS	CHI	2840
229	ALLEN, TERRY	N/A	2800
230	MURRELL, ADRIAN	WAS	2780
231	HOLMES, PRIEST	BAL	2480
232	KIRBY, TERRY	CLE	2470
233	HOARD, LEROY	N/A	2410
234	WHEATLEY, TYRONE	RAI	2390
235	HEARST, GARRISON	SF	2230
236	HUNTLEY, RICHARD	PIT	2220
237	ABDUL-JABBAR, KARIM	N/A	2160
238	MEANS, NATRONE	CAR	2130
239	LANE, FRED	N/A	2030
240	PITTMAN, MICHAEL	ARZ	2000
241	BARBER, TIKI	NYG	1890
242	WARREN, CHRIS	DAL	1870
243	BENNETT, DONNELL	KC	1870
244	RHETT, ERRICT	CLE	1770
245	BROWN, GARY	NYG	1660
246	IRVIN, SEDRICK	DET	1650
247	RIVERS, RON	N/A	1610
248	HICKS, SKIP	WAS	1580
249	FAZANDE, JERMAINE	SD	1570
250	CENTERS, LARRY	WAS	1550
251	WAY, CHARLES	NYG	1460
252	HILL, GREG	N/A	1430
253	FAULK, KEVIN	NE	1350
254	MITCHELL, BRIAN	WAS	1320
255	SMITH, LAMAR	MIA	1270
256	FLETCHER, TERRELL	SD	1240
257	THOMAS, THURMAN	MIA	1140
258	ANDERS, KIMBLE	KC	1140
259	HARRIS, RAYMONT	NE	1140
260	KONRAD, BOB	MIA	1130
261	STEPHENS, TREMAYNE	SD	1110
262	SHEHE, RASHAAN	KC	1100
263	HANSPARD, BYRON	ATL	1080
264	THOMAS, RODNEY	TEN	1060
265	BENNETT, SEAN	NYG	1060
266	LOVILLE, DEREK	STL	1030
267	JOHNSON, LEON	NYJ	1020
268	BANKS, TAVIAN	JAC	1020
269	HOLMES, DARICK	IND	1000
270	CLOUD, MIKE	KC	1000
271	GREEN, AHMAN	GB	1000
272	BYNUM, KENNY	SD	1000

## TIGHT END

No	PLAYER	TM	VAL
401	WALLS, WESLEY	CAR	2130
402	GONZALEZ, TONY	KC	1880
403	DUDLEY, RICKY	RAI	1810
404	WYCHECK, FRANK	TEN	1750
405	JONES, FREDDIE	SD	1480
406	SHARPE, SHANNON	BAL	1480
407	COATES, BEN	N/A	1450
408	ALEXANDER, STEPHEN	WAS	1410
409	BROUGHTON, LUTHER	PHI	1350
410	WILLIAMS, ROLAND	STL	1340
411	CLEALAND, CAM	NO	1310
412	SLOAN, DAVID	DET	1300
413	RIEMERSMA, JAY	BUF	1230
414	MITCHELL, PETE	NYG	1160
415	CHAMBERLAIN, BYRON	DEN	1100
416	POLLARD, MARCUS	IND	1080
417	DILGER, KEN	IND	1030
418	GLOVER, ANDREW	NO	1030
419	MOORE, DAVE	TB	1020
420	MCCEE, TONY	N/A	1020
421	DRAYTON, TROY	N/A	1020
422	BRADY, KYLE	JAC	1010
423	LAFLURE, DAVID	DAL	1010
424	DAVIS, TYRONE	GB	1000
425	HARRIS, JACKIE	DAL	1000
426	HARDY, TERRY	ARZ	1000
427	FAURIA, CHRISTIAN	SEA	1000
428	SANTIAGO, O J	ATL	1000
429	BJORNSSON, ERIC	NE	1000
430	JONES, DAMON	JAC	1000
431	CLARK, GREG	SF	1000
432	BRUENNER, MARK	PIT	1000
433	WETNIGHT, RYAN	CHI	1000
434	CRUMPLER, CARLESTER	MIN	1000
435	BATTAGLIA, MARCO	CIN	1000

## WIDE RECEIVER

No	PLAYER	TM	VAL
501	MOSS, RANDY	MIN	4030
502	HARRISON, MARVIN	IND	3960
503	SMITH, JIMMY	JAC	3530
504	BRUCE, ISAAC	STL	3340
505	CARTER, CHRIS	MIN	3320
506	FREEMAN, ANTONIO	GB	3240
507	MOULDS, ERIC	BUF	3220
508	BROWN, TIM	RAI	3200
509	GALLOWAY, JOEY	DAL	3040
510	JOHNSON, KEYSHAWN	TB	2970
511	SMITH, ROD	DEN	2870
512	ROBINSON, MARCUS	CHI	2770
513	JEFFERS, PATRICK	CAR	2670
514	MORTON, JOHNNIE	DET	2660
515	MATHIS, TERENCE	ATL	2630
516	GLEN, TERRY	NE	2620
517	CROWELL, GERMANE	DET	2610
518	MARTIN, TONY	MIA	2600
519	ISMAIL, RAGHIB	DAL	2550
520	MCCAFFREY, ED	DEN	2520
521	HOLT, TORRY	STL	2510
522	WESTBROOK, MICHAEL	WAS	2480
523	OWENS, TERRELL	SF	2470
524	MCCARDELL, KEENAN	JAC	2450
525	MOORE, ROB	ARZ	2440
526	MAYES, DERRICK	SEA	2430
527	JOHNSON, KEVIN	CLE	2420
528	MUHAMMAD, MUHSIN	CAR	2410
529	ALEXANDER, DERRICK	KC	2410
530	SCOTT, DARNAY	CIN	2410
531	THIGPEN, YANCEY	TEN	2400
532	HAKIM, AZ-ZAHIR	STL	2390
533	SANDERS, FRANK	ARZ	2370
534	SCHROEDER, BILL	GB	2340
535	DAWKINS, SEAN	SEA	2230
536	WILKINS, TERENCE	IND	2220
537	EDWARDS, TROY	PIT	2110
538	BRADFORD, COREY	GB	2110
539	PICKENS, CARL	CIN	2090
540	CHIAVERINI, DARRIN	CLE	2080
541	POOLE, KEITH	NO	2070
542	ENGRAM, BOBBY	CHI	2040
543	CHREBET, WAYNE	NYJ	1970
544	RICE, JERRY	SF	1920
545	TOOMER, AMANI	NYG	1910
546	GAUSDEN, ORONDE	MIA	1900
547	JEFFERSON, SHAWN	ATL	1890
548	JETT, JAMES	RAI	1890
549	CONNELL, ALBERT	WAS	1840
550	MCDUFFIE, O.J.	MIA	1830
551	GRAHAM, JEFF	SD	1790
552	REED, JAKE	NO	1790
553	MOORE, HERMAN	DET	1730
554	BOSTON, DAVID	ARZ	1730
555	GREEN, JACQUEZ	TB	1700
556	DWIGHT, TIM	ATL	1690
557	REED, ANDRE	N/A	1690
558	IRVIN, MICHAEL	DAL	1650
559	TUCKER, JASON	DAL	1640
560	HILLIARD, IKE	NYG	1630
561	SMALL, TORRANCE	PHI	1600
562	WARD, HINES	PIT	1590
563	STOKES, J.J.	SF	1580
564	PRICE, PEEPLESS	BUF	1540
565	DYSON, KEVIN	TEN	1530
566	FRYAR, IRVING	WAS	1510
567	CALLOWAY, CHRIS	ATL	1500
568	HASTINGS, ANDRE	N/A	1460
569	KENNISON, EDDIE	NO	1450
570	PRITCHARD, MIKE	SEA	1440
571	JOHNSON, CHARLES	PHI	1400
572	ISMAIL, DAQRY	BAL	1390
573	PROEHL, RICKY	STL	1390
574	LEWIS, JERMAINE	BAL	1380
575	EMANUEL, BERT	MIA	1350
576	CONWAY, CURTIS	SD	1340
577	RISON, ANDRE	KC	1320
578	SHEPHERD, LESLIE	CLE	1310
579	ANTHONY, REIDEL	TB	1240
580	JOHNSON, PAT	BAL	1170
581	RICKS, MIKHAEL	SD	1150
582	BROWN, TROY	NE	1110
583	HAWKINS, COURTNEY	PIT	1110
584	SIMMONS, TONY	NE	1050
585	PENN, CHRIS	SD	1050
586	WARD, DEDRIC	NYJ	1050
587	GREEN, E.G.	IND	1050
588	JONES, CHARLIE	SD	1040
589	WILLIAMS, KEVIN	BUF	1040
590	JELLS, DETTRICH	PHI	1030
591	SANDERS, CHRIS	TEN	1030
592	EARLY, QUINN	NYJ	1030
593	PATHON, JEROME	IND	1010
594	DAVIS, WILLIE	TEN	1010
595	WILLIAMS, KARL	TB	1010
596	THOMAS, LAMAR	MIA	1000

## WIDE RECEIVER (cont)

No	PLAYER	TM	VAL
597	STILL, BRYAN	ATL	1000
598	CARRIER, MARK J	CAR	1000
599	HATCHETTE, MATTHEW	MIN	1000
600	HORN, JOE	NO	1000

## DEFENSE/SPECIAL TEAMS

No	TEAM	VAL
801	KANSAS CITY	3950
802	JACKSONVILLE	3630
803	ST. LOUIS	3390
804	DALLAS	3230
805	TAMPA BAY	3040
806	SEATTLE	2860
807	NEW YORK (N)	2750
808	NEW YORK (A)	2600
809	GREEN BAY	2420
810	PITTSBURGH	2350
811	NEW ENGLAND	2310
812	TENNESSEE	2300
813	BALTIMORE	2250
814	DETROIT	2210
815	MIAMI	2180
816	DENVER	



PRO FOOTBALL HAS NOT ONLY ENDURED THE PASSAGE OF TIME BUT THRIVED.

# THE CHANGING FACE OF THE GAME

Long before replay and excessive celebration took as much time as the game itself, football, as we know it today, was the brain child of Walter Camp. The former Yale player helped organize the school's first football team in 1876. He took the offspring of rugby and soccer, added 11 players per side, created a system of downs and yards, and implemented the center snap. This "Father of American Football" transformed a sport originally recognized for the clash of brute strength to a physical battle that emphasized strategy, tactics, skill and intelligence.

Jim Thorpe, getting off a kick at the Carlisle Indian School in 1912, the same year he won the decathlon and pentathlon Olympic championships.



George Halas, founder and coach of the Chicago Bears, in his playing days.

The final play of the greatest game. Alan Ameche scores in sudden-death overtime as the Baltimore Colts beat the New York Giants for the 1958 NFL championship.



## THE GAME

In the early 1900s, football received a much-needed boost when President Teddy Roosevelt endorsed sports as a character builder.

In 1916, the first professional super team, the Canton Bulldogs, was born. Led by Jim Thorpe, who dominated both sides of the ball, the Bulldogs steam-rolled all opponents.

Although college games were flourishing in the 1920s and '30s, it was the 1933 championship game between the New York Giants and the Chicago Bears that provided the National Football League with its first turning point. George Halas's Bears, led by Red Grange and the single-wing formation, defeated the Giants, 23-21, in the league's first championship game. In the closing seconds, Bill Hewitt grabbed a pass from fullback Bronko Nagurski and lateraled the ball to Bill Karr, who went in for the touchdown.

It took 25 more years, and the moderation of the forward pass and the neutral zone, for the NFL to reach its second turning point. Many call the 1958 championship between the Baltimore Colts and the Giants the greatest game ever played.

"The thing that made it the greatest game was the last two minutes," according to Colts quarterback Johnny Unitas. "We forced them into overtime, and despite a television cord being pulled and causing a delay, our fullback, Alan Ameche, tucked and blasted into the end zone."

Unitas credits the surge in pro football's popularity to television, great players, and bold coaching styles.

## TELEVISION

One of the boldest coaches, Vince Lombardi, had access to some of the greatest players (QB Bart Starr, OT Forrest Gregg, RBs Jim Taylor and Paul



Hornung, C Jim Ringo, MLB Ray Nitschke, DE Willie Davis, DT Henry Jordan, CB Herb Adderley, and S Willie Wood—all Hall of Famers) from the Green Bay Packers' five championship teams of 1961-62 and 1965-67.

Lombardi added a 34th man to his roster in 1962: the cameraman.

"Lombardi was the first coach to give us access to his players and himself," said Steve Sabol, son of Ed Sabol, the creator of NFL Films. "Lombardi saw it as a way to preserve history and perpetuate the things that were important to him."

While many asked, "Would football have survived without television?" Sabol asked, "Would television have survived without pro football?"

## PLAYER RELATIONSHIP AND FREE AGENCY

The merger caused numerous players to lose their jobs. When the dust cleared, the NFL owed much of its growing popularity in the 1970s, '80s, and '90s to players like Roger Staubach, Mean Joe Greene, Walter Payton, and Joe Montana. In return, the NFL agreed to free agency, which changed the game forever.

"In the beginning," recalled Wellington Mara, son of Tim Mara, the original owner of the New York Giants, "we were contemporaries. We treated the players like family [and] played golf with the guys on our days off."

It was this sense of unity, on and off the field, Mara believes, that helped the teams create dynasties, which, he added, "was what helped build the

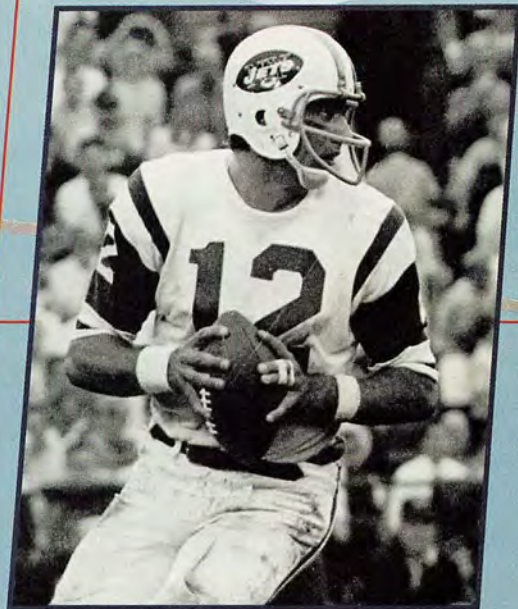
## MERGER

Either way, the co-existence of pro football and television was helped in large part by a colorful, long-haired Alabama quarterback, Joe Namath,



Green Bay Packers coach Vince Lombardi is carried off the field on January 14, 1968 after his fifth NFL championship, against the Oakland Raiders in Super Bowl II.

In Super Bowl III in 1969, the New York Jets' brash quarterback, Joe Namath, led the AFL team to a shocking 16-7 upset of the NFL's Baltimore Colts, resulting in the two leagues merging that year.



appropriately nicknamed "Broadway Joe" for his flair on and off the field. With the NFL and the new American Football League both vying for his service, Namath walked away the winner, with a whopping salary of \$427,000 from the AFL New York Jets.

The investment paid off for the team as well. In Super Bowl III in 1969, Namath made good on his pregame guarantee of victory, leading the Jets to a shocking 16-7 upset of the heavily favored NFL Baltimore Colts and winning credibility for the upstart league. In the victorious Jets' locker room, NFL Commissioner Pete Rozelle leaned over to Lamar Hunt, creator of the AFL, and whispered, "This is the greatest thing that has happened to pro football," recalled Hunt.

Later that same year, the NFL and the AFL agreed to merge "in order to create greater stability and cease the escalation of player salaries and bonuses," explained Ralph Wilson, owner of the Buffalo Bills, an original AFL team. Wilson also admitted, "I am not sure the AFL would have survived without it!"

very foundation that the NFL sits on today."

"It was all about being one big family," said former Giants cornerback Dick Lynch (1959-66). "We all understood that no one played alone. Everyone played a role, whether you were an owner, coach, trainer, or player. It was a different game at a different time."

The "possibility of a dynasty ever existing again is slim to none," said Willie Lanier, a Hall of Famer and a former hard-hitting middle linebacker for the Kansas City Chiefs (1967-77). "It is all about business today. Performance is what keeps you around, and performance is what enables you to shop around your talents every so many years."

But not everyone agrees that free agency will hinder the development of another dynasty. Joe Gibbs, the three-time Super Bowl winner as coach of the Washington Redskins (1981-92), believes that "Dynasties can happen again, and free agency makes it easier."



# THE YOUNG NFL TAKES SHAPE

During Calvin Coolidge's administration, an Illinois senator introduced George Halas and Red Grange to the president. "These gentlemen are with the Chicago Bears," explained the senator. "How interesting," replied the president, "I've always enjoyed animal acts." Pro football may have started out in the decade as an unknown sport, but with a slimmed-down ball, new rules, end-zone modifications, and the introduction of the T-formation, man-in-motion, hash marks, and the college draft, this hodgepodge league was building a solid foundation on such players as Don Hutson, Cliff Battles, Red Grange, Mel Hein and Bronko Nagurski.

**Don Hutson** played end opposite one of the game's greats, Paul "Bear" Bryant, at Alabama. With the Green Bay Packers, Hutson was credited as the first to understand the advantage of running precise patterns. He led the NFL in receiving eight times and grabbed 488 passes for 7,991 yards and 99 touchdowns. He was the league's Most Valuable Player in 1941 and '42.



Don Hutson



Cliff Battles



Earl "Dutch" Clark



Harold "Red" Grange



Mel Hein



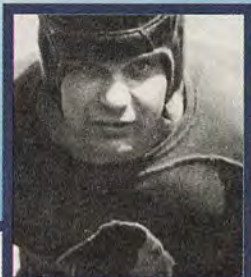
Alphonse "Tuffy" Leemans



John "Blood" McNally



Bronko Nagurski



Albert "Turk" Edwards



Ken Strong

**'30s:** **Cliff Battles** excelled on and off the field. As a Phi Beta Kappa scholar, he was a triple-threat star at West Virginia Wesleyan. In his short professional career (60 games) with the Boston Braves and Boston and Washington Redskins, Battles was NFL rushing champion in 1932 and '37, an All-NFL choice in 1933, '36, and '37, and was the first runner to gain over 200 yards in a game. **Earl "Dutch" Clark**, a quick-thinking quarterback, tailback, and drop-kick specialist, helped the Detroit Lions average 242 rushing yards per game in 1936, an NFL record that still stands. Clark was the league scoring champion for three years and an All-NFL honoree six times. **Albert Glen "Turk" Edwards** started his career with the Boston Redskins for \$150 a game in 1932. "Turk" was best known for his ability to control the offensive line and pro-

## Red Grange's winning style brings credibility to the new league.

tect his quarterback, Sammy Baugh. His immovability disabled the 1937 Giants, when he ran over their defense and helped bring the Eastern title to the Redskins. **Harold "Red" Grange**, the "Galloping Ghost," joined the Chicago Bears on Thanksgiving Day in 1925. This single-wing tailback had a whirling running style that attracted the first huge pro football crowds. Grange's popularity and high price tag eventually led him to co-found the rival American Football League in 1926. Although this league eventually folded, the impact of his success lives today. **Mel Hein** was a 60-minute regular for 15 years with the New York Giants who never missed a game. His flawless ball-snapping technique earned him a spot on the All-NFL team eight straight years (1933-1940). His superior pass-defending style helped bring a 30-13 victory over the Chicago Bears in the 1934 championship game. **Alphonse "Tuffy" Leemans**, a second-round pick in the first-ever NFL draft, was an aggressive running back for the New York Giants (1936-43) who became a team leader and a player-coach in his final season. Leemans led the NFL in rushing as a rookie and was all-league in 1936 and '39. **John "Blood" McNally**, a superb runner with breakaway speed, wore seven different numbers for five different professional football teams. This drifter finally found a home in Green Bay, where he brought the Packers their first NFL championship in 1929 and then added two more in 1930 and '31. McNally scored 230 points with the Packers. **Bronko Nagurski**, after a legendary college career at Minnesota—where he was the first player to be named All-America at two positions (tackle and fullback)—became a symbol of ruggedness with the Chicago Bears (1930-37, 1943). A bone-crushing linebacker, he also gained 4,031 yards in nine seasons. Nagurski won three NFL championships and was named All-Pro six times. **Ken Strong**, an NYU All-America in 1928, played for the New York Giants from 1933-35 and then from 1939-47, excelling in every phase of the game: blocking, running, passing, kicking, and defense. Strong scored 17 points to pace the Giants to the 1934 title over the Chicago Bears in the famous "Sneakers Game" on the ice-covered Polo Grounds.

Photos: Edwards, Clark, McNally from The History of Professional Football by Harold Claassen; all others from AP/WIDE WORLD PHOTOS



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SINCE 1913



# CHANGE IS IN THE AIR

At the start of the decade, only one team was using the T-formation: the Chicago Bears. Ten years later, only one team was not using it: the Pittsburgh Steelers. Slingin' Sammy Baugh and the Bears started the decade with a 73-0 victory over the Washington Redskins for the 1940 NFL title, the largest margin in the history of the championship game. Unfortunately, this momentum was hindered by World War II, when 638 players enlisted, with 21 of them never returning. After the war, the NFL resumed in full force, signing the first African-Americans in 1946: Kenny Washington and Woody Strode to the Los Angeles Rams.



Sammy Baugh

**Sammy Baugh**, a whipcord Texan with a strong arm, spent 16 years as a Washington Redskin (1937-1952), ending his career with 16 NFL passing records and three punting records. A T-formation quarterback and tailback and punter, Slingin' Sammy led the league in passing, interceptions, and punting in 1943 and was All-NFL six times.



George Connor

**'40s:**

**George Connor**, a native of Chicago, spent eight seasons on both sides of the field, earning All-NFL at three positions (offensive and defensive tackle and linebacker) and playing in the first four Pro Bowls in 1950-53. Best known for his ability to diagnose opponents' plays, Connor also established the benchmark for linebackers, being the first big, fast, and agile back in the league. **Dante Lavelli** earned the nickname "Glue Fingers" during his rookie year with the Cleveland Browns in 1946. At his best in the big games, he had a record 24 catches in six NFL title games, including 11 in the 1950 championship. In all, Lavelli caught 386 passes for 6,488 yards and 62 TDs. **Sid Luckman** made the single-wing offense a dinosaur by becoming the first great T-formation quarterback with Chicago



Sid Luckman



Marion Motley

**'40s**



Dante Lavelli

**'40s**

## Sammy Baugh, Sid Luckman, and Bob Waterfield came to pass.



Charley Trippi

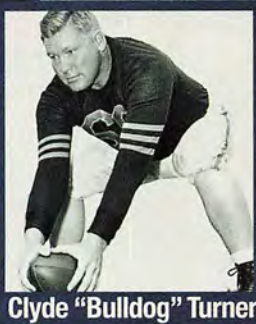


Pete Pihos

**'40s**



Steve Van Buren



Clyde "Bulldog" Turner

**'40s**



Bob Waterfield

**'40s**

(1939-1950). Bears coach George Halas thought Luckman could do it all: "pass, run, kick, defend and think." Luckman delivered four NFL titles and was the league's MVP in 1943. **Marion Motley**, one of the NFL's first African-American players, was a deadly pass blocker and peerless runner on the Cleveland Browns' famed trap play. The all-time rushing champ in the old All-America Football Conference, Motley went on to lead the NFL in rushing in 1950, when the Browns became part of the NFL. **Pete Pihos**, a star on both sides of the ball, helped the Philadelphia Eagles capture the NFL title in 1948 and caught the winning touchdown pass in the 1949 championship game. A three-time receiving champ, Pihos had 373 catches for 5,619 yards and was all-NFL six times in nine seasons. **Charley Trippi** signed for a whopping \$100,000 with the Chicago Cardinals in 1947 and became the final link in the Cards' famed "Dream Backfield." Trippi was one of the most versatile performers, playing halfback for five years and quarterback and defense for two years. Among his achievements were two TDs in the 1947 NFL title victory. **Clyde "Bulldog" Turner** was the No. 1 draft pick in 1940 by the Chicago Bears, for whom his 13 seasons were marked by terrific blocking, superb pass defending and flawless ball-snapping. At the age of 20, Turner led the NFL with eight interceptions in 1942. He played on four NFL championship teams. **Steve Van Buren**, an All-NFL performer in four of his first five years with the Philadelphia Eagles (1944-51), provided a battering-ram punch for their offense, winning the league rushing title four times while surpassing 1,000 yards twice. He led the NFL in punt returns in 1944 and in kickoff returns in 1945. **Bob Waterfield** earned the NFL Most Valuable Player award as a rookie in 1945. His two touchdown passes helped win the championship that year for the Cleveland Rams. A two-time NFL passing champ, Waterfield also played defense his first four seasons and intercepted 20 passes.



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# A BREAKTHROUGH GAME

The greatest game ever played took place between the Baltimore Colts and the New York Giants at Yankee Stadium on December 28, 1958. While most fans remember the overtime game as a highlight film for Johnny Unitas and the Colts' offense, it was the defense that emerged earlier in the decade as a driving force. Gino Marchetti, one of the NFL's finest tacklers, received his first serious injury (a broken leg) during the historic '58 contest. But not before wrestling down Giants running back Frank Gifford just inches short of a first down during the fourth quarter. The Colts came away with a 23-17 victory.

**Dick "Night Train" Lane**, discharged from the Army in 1952, walked into the office of the defending NFL champion Los Angeles Rams and convinced them to sign him as a free agent if he made the team. Earning the nickname "Night Train" (from Buddy Morrow's musical recording of the same name), Lane had 68 interceptions with the Rams, Chicago Cardinals and Detroit Lions.



Dick "Night Train" Lane



Chuck Bednarik



Roosevelt Brown

'50s



Otto Graham



Gino Marchetti



Elroy "Crazylegs" Hirsch

'50s



Lenny Moore

'50s



Jim Parker

'50s



Y.A. Tittle



Emlen Tunnel

'50s

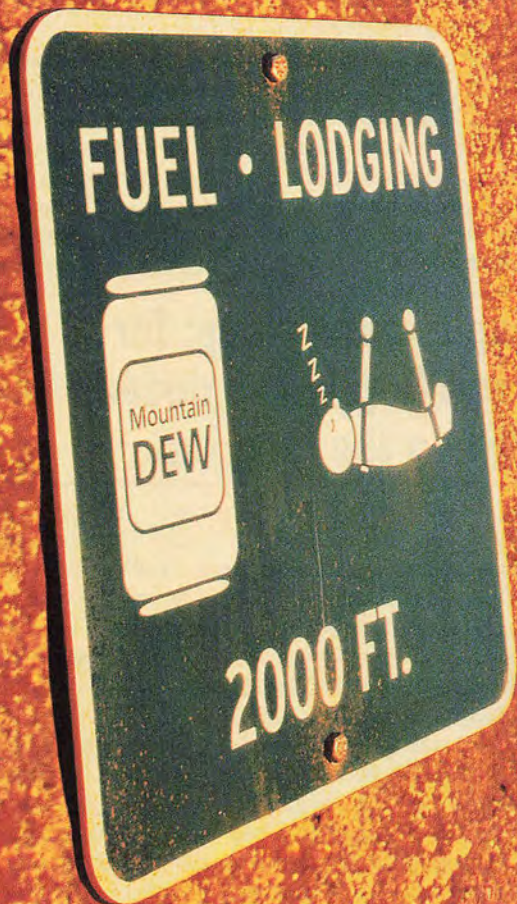
**'50s:** **Chuck Bednarik** was known as the NFL's last iron man because of his rugged, bulldozing blocking/tackling style. In 14 seasons with the Philadelphia Eagles, he missed only three games. A seven-time All-Pro, Bednarik was selected MVP of the 1954 Pro Bowl and made the game-saving tackle on the Packers' Jim Taylor in the 1960 title game. **Roosevelt Brown** is one of the greatest sleepers of all time. Drafted in the 27th round, he was a New York Giant from 1953-1965. Brown was quick off the line and could make the block downfield. He was All-Pro for eight consecutive seasons and the NFL's lineman of the year in 1956. **Otto Graham** was known as one of the best pocket passers. The T-quarterback guided the Cleveland Browns to 10 division or league crowns in 10 years with the club.

## The NFL presents a powerful case for the defense.

He passed for 23,584 yards and 174 touchdowns in his career, topping the AAFC in passing four years and the NFL two years. **Elroy "Crazylegs" Hirsch**, one of pro football's first flanker backs, was an elusive runner who sprinted with the fastest receivers. He became a key component of the Los Angeles Rams' revolutionary three-end offense in 1949. Hirsch led the NFL in receiving and scoring in 1951. **Gino Marchetti**, best known for his relentless pass rush, was named top defensive end of the NFL's first 50 years. At 6-4 and 245 pounds, he leapfrogged over opponents, helping capture the NFL title for the Baltimore Colts in 1958 and '59. Marchetti went to 11 straight Pro Bowl games and was named all-NFL seven times. **Lenny Moore** made an immediate impact in the NFL. Drafted in the first round by the Baltimore Colts, he was the Rookie of the Year in 1956. A halfback/flanker, he produced 113 touchdowns, including at least one in a record 18 straight games. With 20 TDs, Moore was awarded the 1964 Comeback Player of the Year. **Jim Parker** was an exceptional blocker who specialized in protecting the quarterback. He was the first full-time offensive lineman named to the Pro Football Hall of Fame. In 11 seasons, he was all-NFL eight straight times. The Baltimore Colts started him at tackle and later moved him to guard. **Y.A. Tittle** joined the San Francisco 49ers after being named the AAFC Rookie of the Year in 1948 with the Baltimore Colts. He was the NFL Player of the Year in 1957, when he led the 49ers to a tie for the Western title, and again in 1961 and '63 after taking the New York Giants to the Eastern title. **Emlen Tunnel** was known as the Giants' "offense on defense" as a safety in the 1950s. Signed as a free agent, he had 79 interceptions for 1,282 yards and was selected to nine Pro Bowls. Tunnel gained more yards (923) on kickoff, punt and interception returns in 1952 than that season's NFL rushing leader.

Photos: Lane, Laughead Photographers; Tittle, © Bettman/CORBIS; all others from AP/WIDE WORLD PHOTOS





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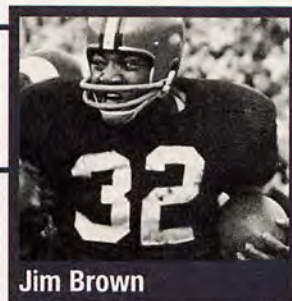
# POWER PACK

On January 26, 1960, the 12 National Football League club owners voted Pete Rozelle as their new commissioner. That same day, the Dallas Texans' owner, Lamar Hunt, was elected president of the new American Football League. By the end of the decade, the NFL and the AFL would merge, but not without the help of such established names as Vince Lombardi and Jim Brown, who bolstered the popularity of the game. Showing off their talent in the 1967 NFL championship game, Lombardi's Green Bay Packers defeated the Dallas Cowboys 21-17 on a last-minute 1-yard quarterback sneak by Bart Starr in 13-below-zero weather in the Ice Bowl game.



Lance Alworth

**Jim Brown** led the NFL in rushing in eight of his nine years in the league (1957-65). He was the Rookie of the Year in 1957 and the MVP in 1958 and '65. Brown ran for 12,312 yards, caught 262 passes, and had a combined net yardage of 15,459 and 756 points.



Jim Brown



Dick Butkus



Paul Hornung

**'60s:** **Lance Alworth**, nicknamed "Bambi" for his graceful and spectacular moves, was the first AFL player elected to the Hall of Fame. His speed and great hands helped him catch passes in 96 straight games, including the first TD scored in the Dallas Cowboys' Super Bowl VI victory. Alworth led the AFL in receiving three times. **Dick Butkus**, a first-round draft choice of the Chicago Bears in 1965, combined quickness, instinct, and strength as an intimidating presence at middle linebacker. In nine seasons with the Bears (1965-73), Butkus had 22 interceptions, 25 fumble recoveries and was named to eight straight Pro Bowls before a knee injury cut short his career. **Paul Hornung**, the 1956 Heisman Trophy winner from Notre Dame, ruled the area inside the 20-yard line as a multitasking halfback for the Green Bay Packers. Known as the



David "Deacon" Jones



Don Maynard



Joe Namath

## Winning is everything: for Green Bay in the decade and the NFL in the long run.

"Golden Boy," Hornung was the NFL Player of the Year in 1960 and '61 and led the league in scoring three times, including a record 175 points in 1960. **David "Deacon" Jones** revolutionized the position of defensive end. A 14th-round draft choice out of South Carolina State, Jones was fast, tough and mobile. He specialized in quarterback sacks, a term he invented, and earned all-pro honors six straight years. Jones was the NFL Defensive Player of Year in 1967-68 with the Los Angeles Rams. **Don Maynard** was drafted by the New York Giants in 1958, but signed with the New York Titans in 1960. He caught a career-high 72 passes in his first season at the Polo Grounds, and later became the go-to-guy on the New York Jets for Joe Namath, his victorious teammate in Super Bowl III. **Joe Namath** signed a contract for a reported \$427,000 with the New York Jets the day after the 1965 Orange Bowl. Broadway Joe's stature was assured after he came through on his guaranteed victory over the Baltimore Colts in Super Bowl III, proving the upstart AFL could hold its own against the established NFL.

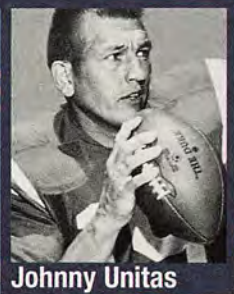


Gale Sayers



Ray Nitschke

**Ray Nitschke** was the first Green Bay Packer defender from the 1960s championship teams to be elected to the Hall of Fame. An exceptional leader known for his toughness at middle linebacker, Nitschke was the MVP in the 1962 title game vs. the New York Giants. He was named to the NFL's 50th and 75th anniversary teams. **Gale Sayers**, a first-round selection of the Chicago Bears in 1965, burst on the scene with a rookie-record 22 TDs, including six in one game vs. the San Francisco 49ers. This All-America from Kansas was an exceptional break-away back who led the NFL in rushing in 1966 and '69 and was the MVP of three Pro Bowls. **Johnny Unitas** was cut by the Pittsburgh Steelers and picked up as a free agent by the Baltimore Colts in 1956. By the time he was through, Unitas had passed for over 40,000 yards and 290 touchdowns, including at least one in 47 consecutive games. He won three NFL championships, three Player-of-the-Year awards, and 10 Pro Bowl invitations.



Johnny Unitas

Photos: Maynard, NY Jets; Alworth, San Diego Chargers; Brown by Vic Stein; Butkus by Laughead Photographers



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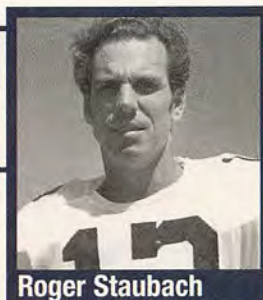
# RECORD-BREAKING DECADE

The 1972 Miami Dolphins went 17-0 and remain the only team in National Football League history to go undefeated throughout the regular season and playoffs. They completed the task with a cast of virtual unknowns, with an appropriately dubbed No-Name Defense. But the Dolphins were not the only powerhouse in the decade. The Fearsome Foursome (Los Angeles Rams), Purple People Eaters (Minnesota Vikings), and the Steel Curtain (Pittsburgh Steelers) boasted imposing defenses. Not to be outdone, the other side of the line featured brilliant offensive performances from such individual stars as Roger Staubach, Bob Griese, Franco Harris and O.J. Simpson.



"Mean" Joe Greene

**Roger Staubach**, the 1963 Heisman Trophy winner from Navy, was at his best when the game seemed out of reach. His scrambling and last-minute heroics guided the Dallas Cowboys to four NFC titles and victories in Super Bowl VI and XII. At his retirement, Staubach's 83.4 career passer rating was the best in the history of the league.



Roger Staubach



Franco Harris



John Hannah

**'70s:** "Mean" Joe Greene was the cornerstone of the Pittsburgh Steelers' "Steel Curtain" defensive line. An exceptional team leader who had speed, size, and strength, Mean Joe was the NFL Defensive Player of Year in 1972 and '74 and a nine-time All-Pro who played in four Super Bowls, six AFC title games, and 10 Pro Bowls.

**John Hannah**, a first-round pick by the New England Patriots in 1973, was the premier offensive guard of the era. Possessed of speed and great size, Hannah was the NFLPA Offensive Lineman of the Year four times and a 10-year All-Pro. His pass protection and run blocking made him a player to contend with on every down. **Franco Harris** galloped through opposing defensive units for the Steelers as a big-back power. He is remembered for the TD pass, later named

'70s

'70s

## A galaxy of stars and teams set the standards for the NFL.



Ed "Too Tall" Jones



Ted Hendricks



Bob Lilly

'70s



Merlin Olsen



Gene Upshaw



Paul Warfield

'70s

'70s

'70s

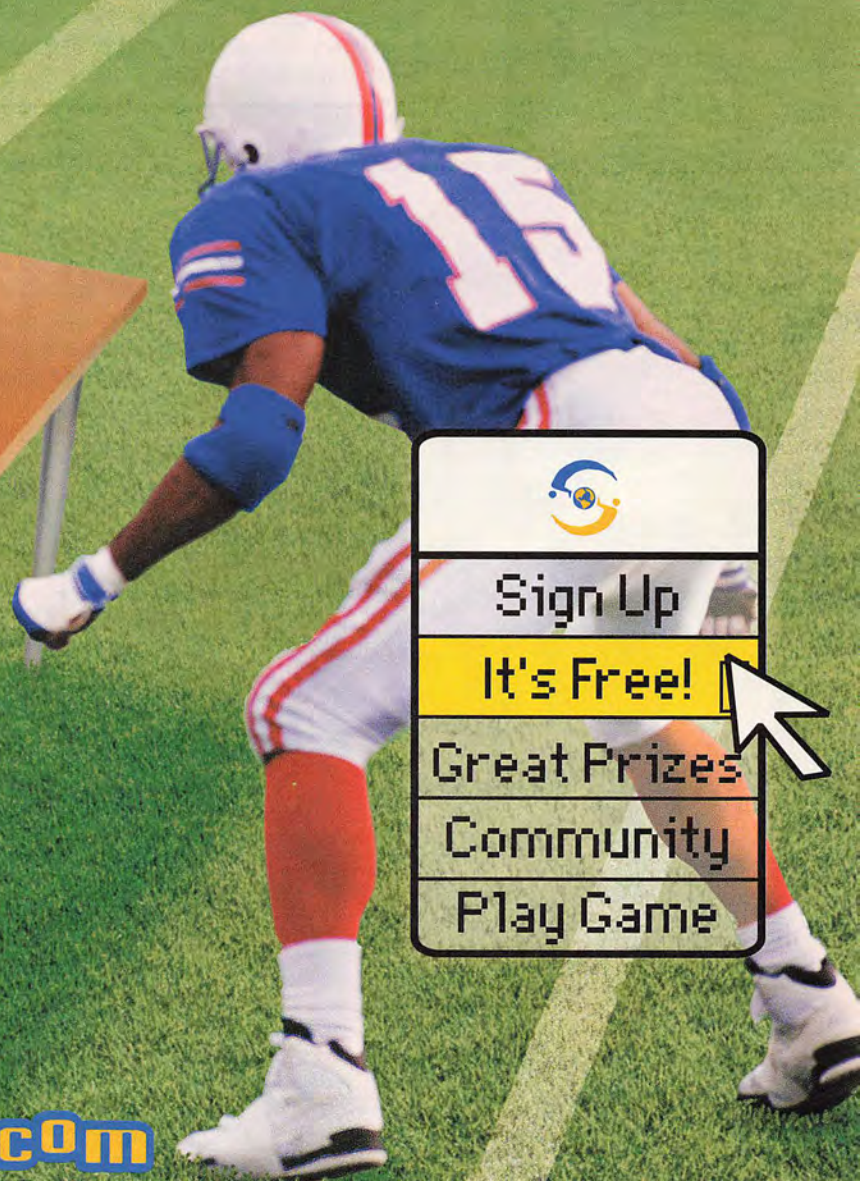
the "Immaculate Reception," he caught off his shoe top in a 1972 playoff game, which gave Pittsburgh a 13-7 victory. Harris ran for 12,120 yards and scored 100 touchdowns. **Ted Hendricks**, a No. 2 draft pick in 1969 by the Baltimore Colts, quickly became a strong, fast and devastating tackler at outside linebacker. He had 26 interceptions, 16 fumble recoveries, four safeties, and blocked 25 field goals. Hendricks earned eight Pro Bowl appearances and four Super Bowl rings. **Ed "Too Tall" Jones** anchored one end of Dallas's Doomsday Defense. He used his height (6-9) to bat down 86 passes in his last nine seasons, including 16 in 1984. Jones also had 19 fumble recoveries and three interceptions in his career. He was part of the Cowboys' Super Bowl champs in 1975 and '77. **Bob Lilly** was born (Olney) and educated (TCU) in Texas, then stayed home to become the first of the great Cowboy defenders. Lilly played in 196 consecutive games for Dallas, missing just one in 14 years. His combination of speed and strength brought him 11 selections to the Pro Bowl. **Merlin Olsen**, a member of the famed "Fearsome Foursome" defensive line of the Los Angeles Rams (1962-76), was a big, fast, agile Phi Beta Kappa. The NFL Rookie of the Year in 1962, Olsen played in 208 games, the last 198 in a row, and was named to a record 14 straight Pro Bowls. **Gene Upshaw**, the No. 1 draft choice of the Oakland Raiders in 1967, started at left guard as a rookie and immediately demonstrated the speed, intelligence, intensity and leadership that characterized his play throughout a 15-year career. He played in 307 games, including three Super Bowls, and earned seven Pro Bowl invitations.

**Paul Warfield** was a fast, silky-smooth receiver known for the precise patterns he ran for the Cleveland Browns (1964-69, 1976-77) and the Miami Dolphins (1970-74). His presence alone on the field forced defensive adjustments. Warfield averaged over 20 yards per catch, scored 85 touchdowns, and earned eight Pro Bowl bids.



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# OFFENSIVE EXPLOSION

For the first time in the game's history, football was eclipsing baseball as America's favorite pastime. A CBS-New York Times poll showed that, despite labor strikes in 1982 and '87, 48 percent of sports fans preferred football to 31 percent for baseball. Two reasons for the surge in popularity were Joe Montana and Lawrence Taylor. Montana directed the San Francisco 49ers to seven NFC West titles and four Super Bowl victories; Taylor, a quarterback-seeking missile for the New York Giants, redefined the linebacker position. Their skills produced some of the most dramatic and thrilling games of the decade.



Earl Campbell



Roger Craig



Joe Klecko



Walter Payton



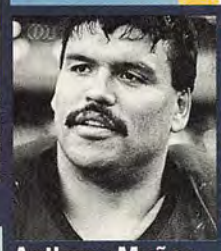
Randy White



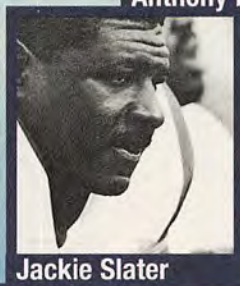
Tony Dorsett



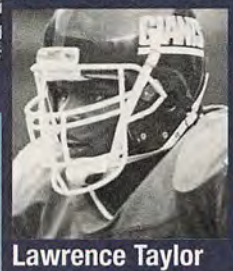
Ronnie Lott



Anthony Muñoz



Jackie Slater



Lawrence Taylor

**Joe Montana** won four Super Bowls with the San Francisco 49ers. He engineered 31 fourth-quarter comebacks in his 16-year career. One game in which a rally was not necessary was Super Bowl XXIX in 1989, when the 49ers tied or set nearly 40 records and Montana was honored with the game's Most Valuable Player award for an unprecedented third time.



Joe Montana

**'80s:** **Earl Campbell**, a Texas All-America and Heisman Trophy winner, was the first player chosen in the 1978 draft, by the Houston Oilers. He ran for over 1,000 yards in his first year, breaking the single-season rookie rushing record. Campbell won four AFC rushing titles and was selected to the Pro Bowl five times. **Roger Craig** was a high-stepping, versatile running back known to opponents by his tireless effort and praised by his San Francisco 49er teammates as a fierce competitor. Chosen to the Pro Bowl four times, Craig earned three Super Bowl rings and set a record by playing in 11 straight NFL playoffs. **Tony Dorsett** picked up in Dallas where he left off at Pittsburgh. The first college player to have four 1,000-yard seasons, Dorsett brought a national championship to Pitt in 1976 and was the second overall pick of the NFL draft, by the

## A cast of brilliant individual performers takes center stage.

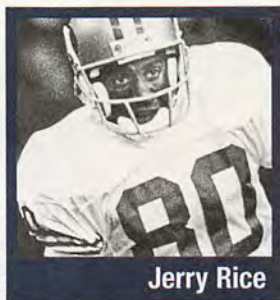
Cowboys, for whom he ran for 12,036 career yards and 91 touchdowns. **Joe Klecko** was one-fourth of the New York Jets' "Sack Exchange," the defensive front that terrorized opposing quarterbacks during the 1980s. A Pro Bowl selection at three different spots on the line during his career, Klecko is No. 2 in the Jets' record book in sacks. **Ronnie Lott** was the NFL Rookie of the Year with the San Francisco 49ers in 1981. He was considered a natural in the defensive backfield, with an instinct for knowing where the ball would be thrown. That talent brought him 63 career interceptions and earned nine Pro Bowl invitations in 10 years. **Anthony Muñoz** played with great agility at offensive tackle with a straight-on blocking style. Named All-Pro with the Cincinnati Bengals 11 consecutive years and the NFL Offensive Lineman of the Year in 1981, '87, and '88, Muñoz was honored as a member of the NFL's 75th Anniversary all-time team. **Walter Payton** quickly established himself as superstar in the NFL. He rushed for over 100 yards in 77 games, for more than 1,000 yards in 10 different seasons, and for 16,726 yards in his career with the Chicago Bears. Payton won the NFC rushing title five consecutive times and was a nine-time Pro Bowl selection. **Jackie Slater** held down one tackle slot on the Los Angeles Rams' offensive line for 20 years. He played in more games than any offensive lineman in NFL history. A seven-time Pro Bowl honoree, Slater was part of the unit that helped spring Eric Dickerson for a record 2,105 rushing yards in 1984. **Lawrence Taylor** was considered the best intuitive linebacker in the game. L.T.'s intensity, speed and attacking style redefined the outside-linebacker position. He had 132.5 sacks in 13 seasons with the New York Giants and was voted to the Pro Bowl 10 times. He is a member of the league's 75th anniversary team. **Randy White** missed just one game in a career that spanned 14 years on the defensive line with the Dallas Cowboys. A nine-time Pro Bowl invitee, White shared Most Valuable Player honors with teammate Harvey Martin in the Cowboys' 27-10 victory over the Broncos in Super Bowl XII.

Photos: Dorsett by Malcolm W. Enmons; Campbell by George Gokovich; Lott by Al Messersmith; Klecko by Nancy Hogue; Muñoz by Peter J. Groh; Taylor by Mitchell B. Reibel; Slater by Tomasso DeRosa; White by Mel Bailey



# A WIDE-OPEN GAME

With the players winning the right to shop their talents, free agency became accepted during the 1990s. One exception was John Elway who, after years of close calls in the big game, stayed with the Denver Broncos and closed out the century with two Super Bowl victories. Not every team, however, has fond memories of the decade. The Buffalo Bills will recall the '90s as a time when they earned four invitations to the Super Bowl party (1991-94) but went home without the prize each time. The game's biggest winner was Jerry Rice, who became the NFL's all-time reception (942 catches) and receiving-yardage (14,123) leader in 1995.



Jerry Rice

**Jerry Rice**, en route to establishing himself as the greatest receiver ever to play the game, set 14 league records and earned 12 Pro Bowl invitations and a spot on the NFL's 75th anniversary team. In 1998 he became the first player to reach the 17,000-yard mark, registering his 12th 1,000-yard season.

## '90s:

**John Elway**, from 1983 to 1998, brought his leadership skills to the Denver Broncos, helping them win back-to-back Super Bowls in 1998-99. Elway is the NFL's all-time winningest starting quarterback (148-82-1; .643). Voted to nine Pro Bowls, he was the MVP in Super Bowl XXXIII and the AFC Player of the Year in 1993. **Brett Favre** has thrown for over 3,000 yards in five consecutive seasons with the Green Bay Packers, only the sixth quarterback in NFL history to do so. His 100 TDs in 1996-1998 lead all passers during that time span. Favre started 77 consecutive games (87 including the playoffs), the longest streak for any active QB. **Dan Marino** ranks among the game's all-time top-ranked quarterbacks, with a 87.3 passer rating. He holds 50 Miami Dolphin records and

## Free agency leads to player movement and greater parity in the NFL.

25 NFL regular-season records. The Rookie of the Year in 1983 and the first rookie QB to start in the Pro Bowl, Marino threw for over 5,000 yards and 48 touchdowns in 1984. **Barry Sanders** hit the ground running in the NFL following a Heisman Trophy season at Oklahoma State in 1988. At 5-8, Sanders played 10 seasons with the Detroit Lions and became just the third back to surpass 2,000 yards in a single season. He is No. 2 in league history in rushing. **Deion Sanders**, one of the most gifted and versatile players ever in the NFL, has thrilled fans with his skills as a cornerback, punt returner, and pass receiver. He is the only man in professional sports to play in both a World Series (with the Atlanta Braves) and a Super Bowl (with the Dallas Cowboys). **Bruce Smith**, one of the most dominant defensive ends in the history of the league, can change the complexion of a game by himself. He led the AFC in sacks in 1996 and '97 with the Buffalo Bills and tops all players in postseason sacks. He was chosen for the Pro Bowl 11 times. **Emmitt Smith** is the first NFL player to run for over 1,000 yards in five straight seasons. He has amassed 12,566 rushing yards and collected four rushing titles, three Super Bowl rings and a Super Bowl MVP award with Dallas. Not limited to rushing and scoring, Smith is fourth in the Cowboys' record book with 415 career catches. **Reggie White** is not well-liked by quarterbacks. It's nothing personal, just that the defensive end has more sacks than any player in the NFL record book. White, who had 21 sacks in only 12 games in 1987 with the Philadelphia Eagles, earned a Super Bowl ring in 1997 with the Green Bay Packers. **Rod Woodson**, one of the game's all-time great cornerbacks, recently moved to safety. A fierce competitor, Woodson is a seven-time Pro Bowl player who was named the NFL's Defensive Player of the Year in 1993. He ranks in the top 16 in five league statistical categories and was named to the NFL's 75th anniversary team.



John Elway



Brett Favre



Dan Marino



Barry Sanders



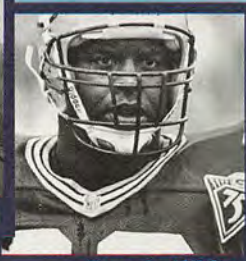
Emmitt Smith



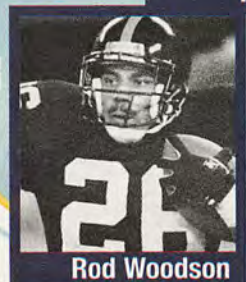
Deion Sanders



Bruce Smith



Reggie White



Rod Woodson





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Search the Internet for Gil Brandt, and you will discover a mention of him at 287 web sites. The legendary Brandt, who is credited with being the first to incorporate computers into the scouting and analysis of players, started his illustrious career as a part-time scout for the Los Angeles Rams under Tex Schramm in the 1950s. He moved with Schramm to the Dallas Cowboys, where he was vice president of personnel from 1960 to 1989.

A. Gil Brandt (right) was presented with the prestigious Walter Camp Football Foundation 1999 Man of the Year Award by Stanley W. Konesky Jr., the Foundation's president.



**DALLAS  
COWBOYS**



# THE COWBOY WAY

An exclusive interview with Gil Brandt,  
whose innovative techniques made the Dallas Cowboys an NFL power.



For those remarkable 29 years, Brandt pioneered scouting techniques that are considered routine today. He showed a sharp eye for talent as well as a remarkable aptitude for converting basketball players (Cornell Green and Pete Gent) and track athletes (Bullet Bob Hayes) into football players, for finding sleeper free agents (Drew Pearson and Cliff Harris), and for risking a draft choice on a player committed to the Navy (Roger Staubach). Brandt was responsible for signing players who helped lead the Cowboys to 19 consecutive playoff appearances and five Super Bowl championships.



# Street & Smith's caught up with the 1999 Walter Camp Man of the Year while he took a break from heading the NFL's draft web site, the MSNBC Internet football section, and his weekly show on the SportsFan Radio network.

## Q. You helped revolutionize scouting in the NFL. How was scouting done in the past?

Brandt: In the beginning, scouting started with sending the coaches on the road as well as hiring local high school coaches and retired players to find the best players in a certain region. The hand-written reports were submitted to the club and reviewed one at a time, with no systematic way of entering the data collected.

I started to look at how different businesses, outside of football, were

important than downhill blocking. So that if player No. 1 got a grade of 5 on downhill blocking and 3 on pass protection (a total of 8), and player No. 2 received a 7 on pass protection and 1 on downhill blocking (also a total of 8), player No. 2 would be rated better than player No. 1. This enabled us to assign an importance factor to each position.

## Q. What will the scouting-evaluation systems of the future hold?

Brandt: Technology is mind-boggling today! The digital camera and the ability to receive data today without visiting the school will provide additional scouting

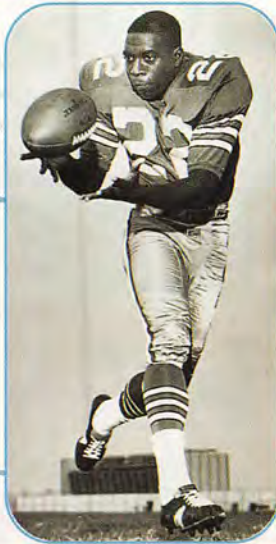
Gil Brandt (B), as vice president of personnel for the Dallas Cowboys, holds one of the volumes of player statistics in the team's library.



B



C



D

Brandt had an eye for turning athletes from other sports into great football players. Cornell Green (C) was a first-round pick in the NBA draft. Bob Hayes (D) was an Olympic sprint gold medalist.

## Some people cannot run as fast but have great ability to find the ball.

operating. Everyone in the '60s was talking about computers, so we went to the best, IBM, with our thoughts and ideas. IBM was so large that they sent us to a specialist, Salom Carishi. We started our own company, with Salom heading it, which created an archiving system that would evaluate our input. We realized the wave of the future was the computer.

## Q. What innovations did you bring to scouting/player evaluations?

Brandt: The computerized system took us years to develop. It had to incorporate characteristic and position-specific criteria. The system that we created identified what the football player was made of and what was paramount to the success of his position, which was determined by doing studies of previous players who had succeeded or failed at the same position.

As an example, the pass-protection for an offensive line was far more

tools for clubs. But remember: Garbage in, garbage out. In other words, any system that you have is no better than the information put in by the scouts.

## Q. You brought in a great deal of talent to the Cowboys. What did you look for in a player?

Brandt: A naturally gifted player. Some people cannot run as fast but have great ability to find the ball or jump at the right moment. Those are things you just cannot coach. We had a player, Everson Walls, who did not have great speed but had a knack for playing corner. He was the first rookie to lead the league in interceptions his first two years. Here was a guy who, because of his grades, the computer pulled out of the pile as a possible free agent to sign. The system enabled us to separate the masses, leaving us the 25 best free agents to sign, based on the values we assigned them during the data-input stage.



**Q. You looked not just at the large universities, but also at the smaller schools, and even at athletes from other sports. What was your thinking there?**

Brandt: It was a different time. It was like a guy who buys a piece of land but knows the housing and development will not come for another 10 years, so he sits on the property and makes his money at the end of the decade. [Dallas] Coach Tom Landry had a contract for 10 years, which gave us great security to develop players. For instance, Cornell Green was a great basketball player, a first-round pick in the NBA, but we convinced him to play football. He went to six Pro Bowls. In fact, on our 1975 Super Bowl team, we had five players that never played a game of college football. Unfortunately, in today's [NFL] climate, you have to win quickly, which leaves us no time to develop players.

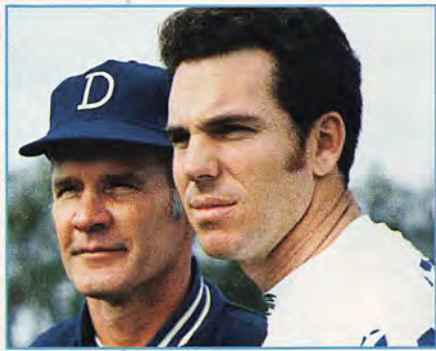
Brandt: We had a lot of hidden gems: Rayfield Wright (from Fort Valley State), Cliff Harris (from Washington Baptist), and [Olympic sprinter] Bob Hayes all deserve to be in the Hall of Fame.

**Q. There is a level of parity now in the NFL. Do you think it is possible for there to be another dynasty, like those of the Packers, Cowboys, and Steelers?**

Brandt: Dynasties are no longer possible. The salary cap catches up with you every so many years. When you are winning, your players look better to other clubs and you eventually lose those players to free agency.

**Q. Today, you can draft a player based on a particular offense your current coach is implementing, and then, 3-4 years later, the coach could be fired and you are stuck with a group of players that may not be able to adapt to the new coach's scheme.**

# We had 20 straight winning seasons and went to the playoffs in 18 of 20 years.



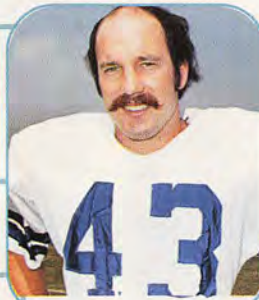
Brandt uncovered many all-pro-caliber players at small colleges: Rayfield Wright (F), Fort Valley State; Cliff Harris (G), Ouachita Baptist; and Jethro Pugh (H), Elizabeth City State.

E

F

G

H



**E:** The legendary Tom Landry (left) was the head coach during most of Gil Brandt's tenure with the Cowboys. They had the foresight to draft Navy quarterback Roger Staubach (right) in spite of his five-year service commitment.

**Q. When no other NFL team would touch Roger Staubach, because of his service obligation for five years after he graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy, you used a draft choice on him. Why?**

Brandt: It was 5 o'clock in the morning, and we were into the 12th round of the NFL draft. We knew Roger had a naval obligation to complete, but we also knew that some day he would get out of the service and do something. In fact, Roger could have gotten out of his obligation, but he choose not to in order to honor his commitment. It was that dedication that convinced us to select him. You knew with this type of personality that he would work hard!

**Q. Who are some of the big-name players you drafted?**

Brandt: We had a lot of great players, obviously. We had 20 straight winning seasons and went to the playoffs in 18 of 20 years. Pat Donovan, Herb Scott, from Virginia Union, Drew Pearson, Cornell Green, Roger Staubach come to mind. We brought in raw talent and developed it over time.

**Q. Who are some of the hidden gems you uncovered?**

**How do you draft with this in mind?**

Brandt: This is why players go in vogue and out of vogue in a hurry. Offenses change. Hopefully, you can keep people that are adaptable to a system. As an example, Norm Van Brocklin, a quarterback who was quite successful in his day, would probably not be successful today simply because of the increased need to scramble more due to the frequent blitzing. Flexibility and adaptability. Hopefully, there is an area where the player can adapt to the coach and the coach can adapt to the player.

**Q. How do you account for the growth in player size since you started with the Cowboys? For example, offensive lines in the 1960s probably averaged 250 pounds. Today, most offensive linemen are 300-plus pounds.**

Brandt: Today, players are so much taller and heavier than before—not only in football, but in all sports. As an example, the average offensive lineman at this year's combine was 6-5. Twenty years ago, it was 6-2 3/8. Players are



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**Let the Cup chase begin**

With Curtis Joseph in goal and playoff experience behind them, the Toronto Maple Leafs are in good shape in the ninth career playoff shutout. Joseph made 30 saves for his victory over the Ottawa Senators in their playoff opener. "It's a fine line when it comes to the playoffs," Sundin said. "The teams were evenly matched, and CuJo was the difference. He had a great game, as usual."

Taken from CNN/ISI

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**Quiet inspiration**

It was anything but a calm opening day at the baseball monument known as Yankee Stadium. The chilling wind was swirling all around and the sun was blinding, a combination that seemingly made every flyball an adventure. Speaking of adventures, there was David Cone's Yankees only resulted in two Texas runs.

Taken from CBS Sportsline

**A O-clay**

Top-seeded Mary Pierce had no problems in her first match on Wednesday in the Bausch & Lomb Championships. The match took just over an hour and a half. The 19-year-old Frenchwoman, who would have been shorter had she been born in the United States, was the world's number one player in at least one of the four Grand Slam tournaments.

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Who has played the most games in NBA History?

- Kareem Abdul-Jabbar
- Larry Bird
- Michael Jordan

**New Blood**

Kerry Wood and (guy) Keith Brooks then to a guy who hit 66 homers last season. Not that by surprise again in 1999.

**Jordan when he scored 69 points**

Jordan when he scored 69 points

Sporthis has recently launched the largest and most comprehensive directory/search engine on the Web devoted primarily to sports and other key interests of sports fans. Sporthis provides up to the minute scores, line updates, weather information, horse racing info including links to all tracks, schedules for all sporting events, TV listings and much more.

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# In reality, we have better athletes today than we had 20 years ago.

also heavier now. The average pounds at this year's combine was 319 pounds, with the largest being 356. Twenty years ago, the biggest offensive linemen was 278.

One thing to keep in mind with these larger athletes is that the field was not made for people this size. Will you eventually make the field wider? I don't think so. Instead, you just learn to do innovative things that take advantage of these better and bigger players.

The reason for these changes is partly due to a natural evolution. People are taller today. This, along with better nutrition and training techniques, provides us with a player that can run faster and jump higher. In addition, today's athletes are year-round professionals, training during the off-season period, too. In reality, we have better athletes today than we had 20 years ago.

## Q. Aside from physical size, are there any other major differences in players today?

Brandt: Players are a lot smarter. Teachers are better. Character is also important to search out today. [Former Dallas running back] Calvin Hill rated high in smarts and character. With the money and distractions surrounding athletes of today, these categories rate high.

Lastly, since segregation no longer exists, college football is much better than 20 years ago. Everyone now has the opportunity for a college education as well as attend a good athletic program.

## Q. If you could change one thing about how the draft is conducted or structured, what would it be?

Brandt: Anyone who does not work out at the combine should not be eligible for the draft! On March 2, 26 teams sent their personnel people to Miami, Florida, to work out a player on Monday. But that player decided to not run until Thursday. You could take all that money spent on expenses and put it to better use, like cancer research. Everything is relative.

Along the same lines, I would require the colleges to be truthful in their reporting. The height and weight statistics that are sent to teams are not truthful.

Lastly, I would add some compensatory picks for a team that over a period of three years has a loss record that is 10 percent greater than the clubs at .500—a compensation-type system. This way, maybe a team like the Cincinnati Bengals or the New Orleans Saints could have a chance. Remember, two years ago, the St. Louis Rams were last in the NFC West before making it to the Super Bowl. This gives everyone a lot of hope. Especially the fans!

I. Tex Schramm (left), former president and general manager of the Dallas Cowboys, and running back Tony Dorsett are all smiles in the locker room after the Cowboys' 27-10 Super Bowl victory over Denver in 1978.



J. Defensive tackle Bob Lilly, the Cowboys' first No. 1 draft choice, lights up following Dallas's 24-3 Super Bowl victory over Miami in 1972.

## Gil Brandt's All-Time NFL Team

Coach: Tom Landry

### Offense

QB: Roger Staubach	T: Jim Parker
RB: Jim Brown	T: Anthony Muñoz
RB: Walter Payton	G: John Hannah
WR: Jerry Rice	G: Gene Upshaw
WR: Don Hutson	C: Mel Hein
TE: Mike Ditka	PK: Morten Andersen

### Defense

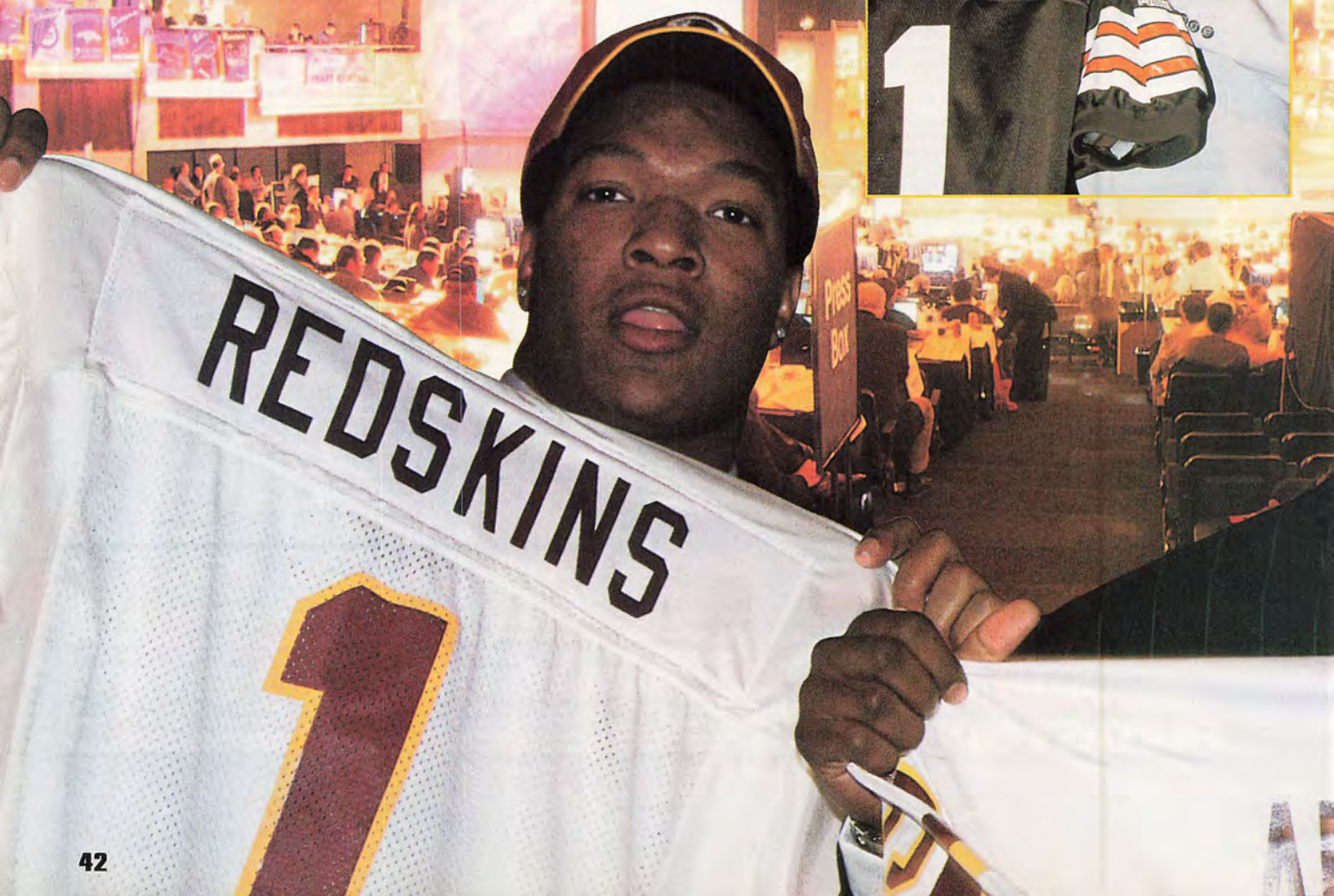
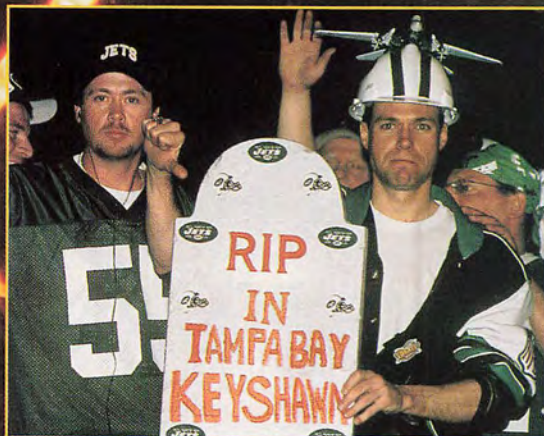
E: Reggie White	LB: Ted Hendricks
E: Gino Marchetti	CB: Mel Blount
T: Joe Greene	CB: Dick "Night Train" Lane
T: Bob Lilly	FS: Mel Renfro
LB: Lawrence Taylor	SS: Ronnie Lott
LB: Dick Butkus	P: Ray Guy







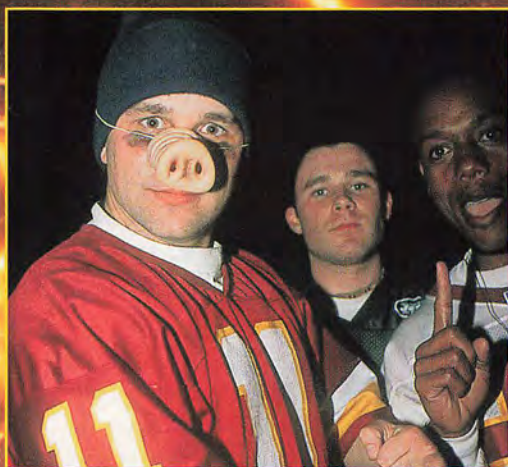
# DRAFT 2000





# Indian Uprising!

Washington's Redskins entered the 2000 NFL Draft as a good team and left as a prime Super Bowl contender, earning straight A's all around.



By Anthony L. Gargano

The process is supposed to be one of wincing and brown grocery sacks. It is supposed to be a journey—five years at best, a lifetime at worst. Progress is measured in solace. Patience is a prerequisite: a right tackle here, a nose tackle there.

This is the NFL norm. Or perhaps it was. In Washington, "How You Build It" is overnight. Only God created a kingdom faster than Daniel Snyder. It is really simple, the Redskins' yuppie owner seems to wink. By golly, spend money and hire one cap-shrewd player personnel guy, Vinny Cerrato, and let him fleece the league.

Cerrato, the Redskins' director of player personnel, says Draft Day 2000 "was Christmas. You open your present and say, 'I got exactly what I wanted.'"

What the 'Skins got was two more fangs for this paper monster: LaVar Arrington, the rock 'em, sock 'em Penn State linebacker who welcomed the LT metaphor and requested to wear a red No. 56 ("See my jersey? I'm going to try," he said.), and Chris Samuels, the good 'ol, big 'ol Crimson Tider who will play the bubble wrap to quarterback Brad Johnson's blind side. Here, the comparison is Tony Boselli or better.

If there was one fret for the retooled Redskins, it was a playmaker on defense, especially at the linebacker spot. Enter not only free-agent signee Bruce Smith but the fabulous Arrington, who compiled 72 tackles, nine sacks and 20 tackles for loss last season, many of them made by possible by his "LaVar Leap," his patented tendency to hurl himself over the line of scrimmage.

Who said Mike Ditka couldn't help build a Super Bowl contender anymore?

Ditka offered his future for Ricky Williams, the 'Skins obliged and, after some wheeling and dealing with Cerrato's former 'Niner team, Washington emerged with the second and third picks in this year's draft. Suddenly, the Rams look passé.

The team that looks to challenge Washington and St. Louis in the NFC also made a super stride and did so without picking until the second round. The Buccaneers traded the 13th and 27th choices to the Jets for a sure thing, Keyshawn Johnson. It's a frightening revelation when you think of how good this fit. Danger now lives on both sides of the ball in Tampa.

Meanwhile, all the Jets got for their four first-rounders were heckles by an ornery hometown crowd for not drafting Johnson's replacement. Not to worry, New York, it will pan out in the end, just like the newest Cleveland Brown, top pick Courtney Brown.

Here are the rest of the winners and losers for the NFL's great meat market:

*Left: Top picks Chris Samuels (left) and LaVar Arrington made April's NFL Draft a bonanza for the Redskins*

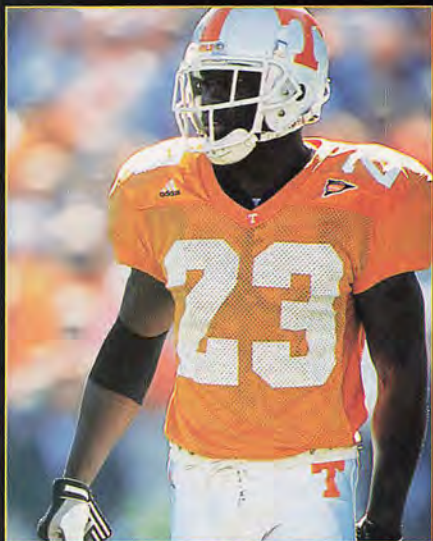




Thomas Jones-Arizona



Ron Dayne-New York Giants



Dwayne Goodrich-Dallas

# DRAFT 2000

## NFC EAST

### Washington Redskins **A**

Add a linebacker like **LaVar Arrington** and a left tackle such as **Chris Samuels** and the 'Skins can't help but get much, much better. Oh, by the way, Washington also added a promising young corner named **Lloyd Harrison** from N.C. State in the third round.

### Philadelphia Eagles **B+**

Nine doctors probed **Corey Simon's** surgically repaired shoulder. One scout made a special trip to Tallahassee to watch him bench-press 225 pounds 20 times a few days before the draft. Then the upstart Eagles rebuffed offers to trade down and made the Florida State Seminole the sixth pick in the draft, filling an enormous hole in the belly of the defensive line. Then the comparisons to Jerome Brown began. Perhaps. For sure, it's obvious second-year coach Andy Reid and GM Tom Modrak have a plan and it's about building a football team from the trenches out. Six-foot-3, 330-pounder **Bobby Williams**, a third-round guard from Arkansas, is expected to push Jermaine Mayberry for the starting guard spot. They still need, however, a game-breaker for Donovan McNabb to throw to. We'll see about skinny second-rounder **Todd Pinkston**, a wideout from Southern Miss with good hands and speed who goes 165 pounds soaking wet.

### Arizona Cardinals **B**

It's been forever since the Cards had a back to fear. This was ever clear last year as a bruised Jake Plummer ran out of miracles, leaving disappointing Arizona 29th in total offense and out of the playoffs. That should finally change with first-rounder **Thomas Jones**, a legit inside-outside runner who gained 1,798 yards at Virginia in 1999. If there's one knock on Jones, it's that he fumbles. Otherwise, he's big-time. The Cards also tabbed a potential big-play linebacker in Tennessee's **Raynoch Thompson**, who's undersized at 220 pounds but exceptionally fast. Thompson's college teammate **Darwin Walker**, a third-rounder, and former Idaho hoops player **Mao Tosi** provide some depth on a defensive line marred by uncertainty. Looks like a solid draft, but something always seems to happen to the Cardinals.

### New York Giants **C+**

If there is a born giant, it is **Ron Dayne**, whose mother used to buy him adult clothes in grade school. Now the 255-pound Heisman

Trophy winner gets to carry Big Blue through those blustery Meadowlands Sundays, probably about 20-25 times a game. Some may call him a reach at No. 11, but the Giants didn't hesitate taking Dayne over Alabama's Shaun Alexander. In fact, they took only two of their allotted 15 minutes to hand over the index card to Paul Tagliabue. "We knew what we wanted and we turned the name in," shrugged GM Ernie Accorsi. They got another Jerome Bettis. After Dayne, however, they got defensive tackle **Cornelius Griffin** (Alabama) and wide receiver **Ron Dixon** (Lambuth), both of whom seem like a stretch. Fourth-rounder **Brandon Short**, who played linebacker in the Happy Valley shadows of LaVar Arrington and Courtney Brown, could be the best buy of that trio.

### Dallas Cowboys **D**

The 'Boys' draft started by sending two first-round picks to Seattle for Joey Galloway, which is what you call paying through the nose. They will say they need to replace Michael Irvin. But what's up with **Dwayne Goodrich** in the second round? The Tennessee Vols' corner has speed but he gave up way too many big plays last year, and then doctors diagnosed him with a heart murmur at the NFL combine. After several days of extensive tests, Goodrich was cleared—but some teams refused to even put him on their board. In the fourth round, Dallas opted for corner **Kareem Larrimore** (West Texas A&M), who was one of only three players at the combine to test positive in violation of the league's alcohol/substance abuse/steroid policies. In the sixth round, they chose FSU cornerback **Mario Edwards**, who flunked out of school for a bit his junior year. The hope here is that one emerges as a replacement for Deion Sanders, who has again become distracted by baseball.

## NFC CENTRAL

### Tampa Bay Buccaneers **A**

First rule of the draft: No such thing as a sure thing. Unless, of course, you trade two first-round picks for one. So the Bucs got Keyshawn Johnson and the Jet fans booed on draft day. So the Bucs should be Super Bowl-ready. After all, this was a team only a great receiver away from beating the Rams for the NFC championship. As for legitimate picks, the Bucs could have a find in monster guard **Cosey Coleman** of Tennessee. If so, that's what you call the icing.



## Chicago Bears **B**

Give Bears personnel guru Mark Hatley credit: He wanted New Mexico linebacker **Brian Urlacher** all along. What he got was a "superbacker" with speed and a feel for the football, possibly even a future Pro Bowler. Likewise with second-rounder **Mike Brown**, a defensive back from Nebraska who likes to wallop. The Bears also bit on Georgia Tech wideout **Dez White**, who dropped from a projected late first-round pick to a third-rounder. The knock on White is his hands, which was exacerbated by a poor workout. Says one NFC coach: "He drops 50 percent of his passes. That's why we passed on him." Later in the draft, Chicago picked up the second-best kicker available in Michigan State's **Paul Edinger**, who is considered a bargain since he went five rounds after Sebastian Janikowski.

## Green Bay Packers **B-**

Cagey Ron Wolf wanted to trade up to snare Corey Simon, but settled on the top tight end in the draft, Miami's **Bubba Franks**. It's probably a blessing in the aftermath of the Mark Chmura saga. Chmura—whose morals made him boycott a trip to see President Clinton—faces time after an alleged incident involving sex, vodka and an underaged babysitter. In the second round, Wolf gave Brett Favre some protection with Tennessee tackle **Chad Clifton**. Defensive tackle **Steve Warren**, a third-rounder from Nebraska, could help ease the aging process of Gilbert Brown and Santana Dotson.

## Detroit Lions **C-**

This is how it went: Great in the first round, weak in the second, questions in the third. The Lions needed offensive line help and plucked a beast in **Stockar McDougle**, who goes 361 pounds. Oklahoma's McDougle fills nicely on a line that already includes 375-pounder Aaron Gibson. Then the Lions go and grab a badly undersized linebacker (**Barrett Green**), and you wonder whether he'll be anything more than a special-teamer. Then the Lions snagged an underrated runner in **Reuben Droughns** of Oregon. Why ask why? The Lions already paid big cash for free-agent back James Stewart.

## Minnesota Vikings **F**

Huh? What in Mankato is going on with the Vikings? The start of a bizarre offseason begins with a quarterback question. Is it Jeff George? No. OK, it's Randall Cunningham. No, it's George. No, it's second-year man

Daunte Culpepper, who looks as ready as steak tartare. No, it's George. No, George can't forgive, goes to Washington, so it's Bubba Brister. Or is it Culpepper? Next comes the draft. It's Boston College's solid defensive tackle **Chris Hovan** in the first round. But it's defensive tackle **Fred Robbins** (Wake Forest) in the second. Guess what? The Vikes need a defensive end—one they reached for (**Michael Boireau** of Miami) in the third round. But we'll indulge for a moment. ...Oh, neither Hovan nor Robbins fits the Vikes' upfield pass scheme. Huh?

## NFC WEST

## San Francisco 49ers **B**

The strapped-cap 'Niners came away with exactly what they needed to help rebuild: three pass rushers, two corners and a pair of quarterbacks. So much for keeping the No. 3 pick and taking Peter Warrick. In hindsight, it seemed wise to make the deal with Washington, trade down and stock a bare cupboard. After all, you can only cheat the Cap Man so long. (Take notice, Daniel Snyder.) As for draft-day treats, Michigan State linebacker **Julian Peterson**, cornerback **Ahmed Plummer** (Ohio State) and pass-rushing specialist **John Engelberger** (Virginia Tech)—projected by many as a first-rounder—should fill gaps immediately. Bill Walsh, opting against taking quarterback Chad Pennington in the first round, landed Hofstra's **Giovanni Carmazzi** in the third. Don't be shocked if he's a player in two years.

## Carolina Panthers **C**

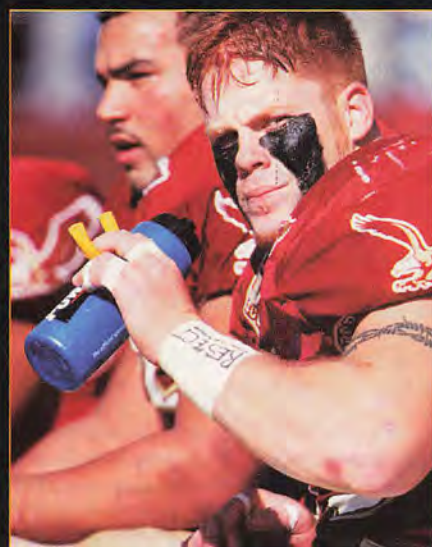
Think the Panthers were drafting for need? They spent their first two picks on cornerback **Rashard Anderson** and safety **Deon Grant** after signing free-agent corner Jimmy Hitchcock in the spring. It might be wise for incumbents Doug Evans and Eric Davis to worry about job security. Eventually, the grade for this draft will change dramatically, depending on how Anderson and Grant develop. Anderson, from Jackson State, is a big, raw talent and a physical cover guy, while Grant (Tennessee), despite overwhelming ability, underachieved as a junior.

## Atlanta Falcons **D**

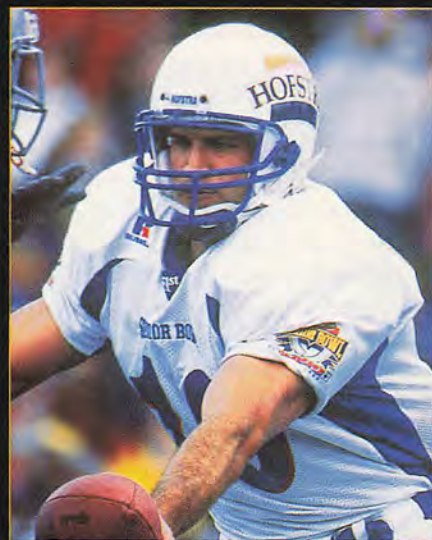
This is what happens when teams believe they are at one level when they, uh, aren't. A year ago, the Falcons were riding high as a Super Bowl runner-up. So they dealt their top pick so they could draft tight end Reggie Kelly, who apparently is not worth it. So they



**Bubba Franks—Green Bay**



**Chris Hovan—Minnesota**



**Giovanni Carmazzi—San Francisco**



# DRAFT 2000

had a bum year and their solace? No first-rounder. They got Southern Cal tackle **Travis Claridge** in the second, which is good value and should help bolster a sagging line. Tennessee State tackle **Michael Thompson** will add some depth there, too, as a fourth-rounder, and third-round linebacker **Mark Simoneau** of Kansas State could also be a find.

## New Orleans Saints **D**

Sometimes grades aren't fair. Sometimes you must pay for OPB (Other People's Blunders). Such is the case for the Saints, who divorced the bold Mike Ditka but remained married to Ricky Williams and an empty 2000 draft. Sins of the forefather left the Saints without a first-rounder and a third-rounder. What to do? They went wild in free agency and tabbed Kansas State defensive end **Darren Howard** in the second round. Best move: Not trading next year's first-rounder to move up to draft Howard, something they considered.

## St. Louis Rams **D**

Not that the Rams needed a lot of help—not that they needed *any*, except maybe some depth on the offensive line. But a running back in the first round? One whom some gurus projected as a third-rounder? The spot-ty **Trung Canidate**? The Rams were looking for long-term protection for Marshall Faulk. Canidate showed great flashes at Arizona, but a running back? In the second round, terribly inconsistent cornerback **Jacoby Shepherd** of Oklahoma State could be a stud (if he maximizes a bushel of talent) or a stump (if he doesn't). However, third-round **John St. Clair** (Virginia) was probably the most consistent center out there. Not great, but good.

### AFC EAST

## New York Jets **B**

Boos echoed through the theater at Madison Square Garden on draft day, as Jet fans wanted a replacement for Keyshawn Johnson. It could have been Plaxico Burress had the Steelers not supposedly reneged on a deal for the No. 8 pick. Instead, New York kept all four first-rounders. Sometimes quantity is just as good. The booty: linebacker **John Abraham** (South Carolina), defensive end **Shaun Ellis** (Tennessee), quarterback **Chad Pennington** (Marshall) and tight end **Anthony Becht** (West Virginia). Abraham should play right away in the Jets' 3-4 scheme and Ellis is a fine pass rusher. Pennington,

who was also miffed at the Steelers after they told him he was their guy, will enter the mix behind Vinny Testaverde and Ray Lucas. Some say he's a future star, while Becht is a big target for a team that desperately needs a tight end. The problem with this bonanza is that the Jets didn't get that stud wideout needed to succeed Johnson. **Laveranues Coles**, despite his troubled past at Florida State, was a bargain in the third round, but he's no Keyshawn.

## Indianapolis Colts **B**

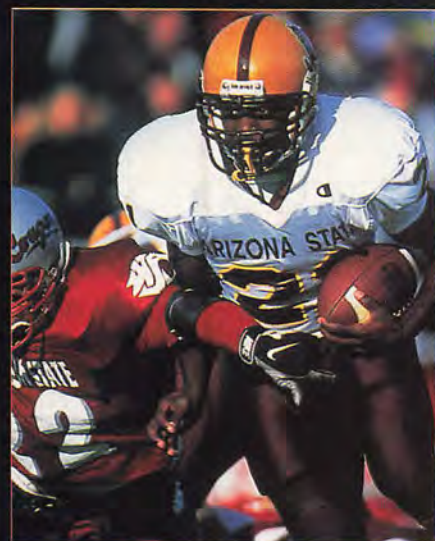
The high-powered Colts don't need much to take that next "Super" step. It's about shoring up the defense now, so Indy went with Brigham Young linebacker **Rob Morris** in the first round. Morris, a tough, intense player who's strong against the run, should make an immediate impact. In the second round, they took Auburn linebacker **Marcus Washington**, another physical player. Penn State corner **David Macklin**, a good cover guy who should play right away in nickel-package situations, should be a solid third-round pick.

## New England Patriots **B-**

For not having a first-round pick, the Pats enjoyed a fine draft Saturday. Why? They needed help at running back and on the offensive line, and came away with Hawaii tackle **Adrian Klemm** and Arizona State running back **J.R. Redmond**. Klemm, who could replace Bruce Armstrong at left tackle, was considered a first-rounder by many. Redmond, a fine receiver out of the backfield and explosive kick returner, also should have gone higher than the third round. Someday, Michigan quarterback **Tom Brady**, the Pats' sixth-round choice, could also develop into a player learning behind Drew Bledsoe.

## Buffalo Bills **C+**

It's about the end of an era in snake-bitten Buffalo now. So in the first round the Bills tabbed Bruce Smith's replacement in Arizona State defensive end **Erik Flowers**, who will play immediately. One problem: The ghost of Smith will follow him forever. Safety **Travares Tillman** of Georgia Tech will be looked to replace free-agent departee Kurt Schultz, but any way you look at it, it's a downgrade. However, the Bills landed a steal in the third round in Virginia Tech linebacker **Corey Moore**, who was one of the best at his position last year. He should give the pass rush a bolster from the outside spot.



**J.R. Redmond—New England**



**R. Jay Soward—Jacksonville**



**Courtney Brown—Cleveland**



## Miami Dolphins **D+**

The Dolphins had no first-round pick, but the 2000 draft wasn't a total flop with offensive tackle **Todd Wade** in the second round. Wade, a 6-foot-7 brute from Mississippi, will compete right away at right tackle. With Richmond Webb on his last leg, he fits in perfectly with new coach Dave Wannstedt's new direction of running the football. The Dolphins want to run the football? That's new, isn't it? Cornerback **Ben Kelly**, a third-rounder from Colorado, can return kicks, but can he cover?

### AFC CENTRAL

## Baltimore Ravens **B**

If there's one downer with the Ravens' draft, it's that they probably overpaid for **Jamal Lewis** at No. 5 and **Travis Taylor** at No. 10. Lewis' stock soared by D-Day, but in all likelihood the Ravens could probably have traded and still plucked their stud back from Tennessee. As for Taylor, who also made a late run, the jury is split. Denver Broncos coach Mike Shanahan was tepid on him, and one general manager questioned his willingness to go over the middle, while one NFC coach touted the Florida Gator as a much better player than No. 8 pick **Plaxico Burress**. In the end, this was a four-star draft and Baltimore picked fifth. Still, the Ravens, who also added veteran free-agent defensive tackle Sam Adams on draft day, are building something real special.

## Cleveland Browns **B**

What's not to like about Penn State defensive end **Courtney Brown**? He's as close to a lock as possible, and so the Browns—who also added Orpheus Roye and Keith McKenzie as free agents—should finally have a pass rush. Second-rounder **Dennis Northcutt** of Arizona is a small, speedy receiver with talent, but is he too similar to Kevin Johnson? Meanwhile, Tulane wideout **JaJuan Dawson**, taken in the third round, poses a different question: Is he a reach? Regardless, the Browns are in desperate need of help for Tim Couch. Miami of Ohio running back **Travis Prentice**, another third-rounder, is not an elusive back, but he could work well in tandem with Errict Rhett.

## Cincinnati Bengals **B**

Front-page news: The Bengals didn't blow it. They didn't make a silly trade (there were rumors) or reach around the block. They wisely took **Peter Warrick**, who fell from

the top pick (in January) to No. 4 because of a poor 40 time ran indoors. Mark it down: Warrick will be a star, even for this do-wrong franchise. Cincy certainly needs him with Carl Pickens almost out the door and Akili Smith needing targets. In the third round, the Bengals took Warrick's Florida State teammate, **Ron Dugans**, who should stick in this league. However, we're a little shaky with Louisiana State defensive back **Mark Roman** in the second round. He lacks the cover skills for an NFL corner and he's a little small for safety (185 pounds).

## Pittsburgh Steelers **B**

"The guy gave me his word. He said flat-out they would take me," Chad Pennington bristled of Bill Cowher. Welcome to the real world, Chad. The Steelers changed their minds on the Marshall quarterback, meaning they did the same on Kordell Stewart. They gave Stewart one more shot and two more receivers, including No. 8 pick **Plaxico Burress** of Michigan State, all 6-5 of him. Seeing how Pittsburgh doesn't have a pro hoops team and Duquesne isn't making a Final Four run anytime soon, Burress should be somewhat focused. Remember, this is a guy who had some monster games, took some others off and blew off the Eagles twice before the draft—one for a Pacer game, the other because the Spartans were in the middle of an NCAA basketball title run. The Steelers also might have a steal in fourth-round pick **Danny Farmer**, who looks like an Ed McCaffrey clone (he's 6-3, white, has good hands and can run). One interesting pick is Tennessee's **Tee Martin**, a quarterback who could flourish in the future under good tutelage.

## Tennessee Titans **C+**

Obviously, the Tites only need tinkering now and had just the 30th pick and no second-rounder to do so. Still, they plucked a potential impact player in linebacker **Keith Bulluck**, who underachieved some at Syracuse but is very athletic with top-flight speed. In the third round, Tennessee added a speedy defensive end in Brigham Young's **Byron Frisch** and a solid blocking tight end in Florida's **Erron Kinney**. If there's one criticism here, it's that the Tites didn't add a young wideout in a draft chock-full of them.

## Jacksonville Jaguars **C+**

The Jags had one thing in mind entering this draft: a third receiver to complement Jimmy Smith and Keenan McCardell. Depth

at the wideout position has always been a problem for quarterback Mark Brunell, so enter Southern California's **R. Jay Soward**. Many question Soward because of his size, but he's a legitimate game-breaker. Fast. Soft hands. Acrobatic. He wowed all at the Senior Bowl workouts. With some uncertainty surrounding the health of Tony Boselli, the Jags then elected for some depth on the offensive line. Second-rounder **Brad Meester** of Northern Iowa is a versatile center and fourth-rounder **Joey Chustz** of Louisiana Tech can pass-block.

### AFC WEST

## Seattle Seahawks **B+**

It would have been nice to walk away with a wideout to replace Joey Galloway with one of their two first-round picks. But a bruised Ricky Watters in the homestretch last year made Alabama running back **Shaun Alexander** and Wisconsin tackle **Chris McIntosh** wise moves. Alexander's running style makes for good contrast with the aging Watters, plus he's a good receiver out of the backfield. Meanwhile, McIntosh will make an immediate impact on the Seattle line. Mike Holmgren then added a play-making corner in Virginia Tech's **Ike Charlton** in the second round before going the wideout route in round three with Florida's **Darrell Jackson**, who actually was more productive than his more touted teammate Travis Taylor.

## Denver Broncos **B**

Mike Shanahan is always dangerous on draft day. This year he actually had a decent pick to work with and parlayed the No. 10 into the best cornerback in the draft (**Deltha O'Neal**) and an extra second-rounder. California's O'Neal is crucial for need, too, given the one-year suspension of Denver corner Dale Carter for violating the NFL substance-abuse policy. In the second round, Arkansas' **Kenoy Kennedy** is among the top prospects at safety and Michigan's **Ian Gold** is a solid, albeit undersized, linebacker. Texas A&M wideout **Chris Cole** is a burner with suspect mitts. One interesting pick of note is Notre Dame quarterback **Jarious Jackson**. Expect the Broncos to rebound after a year of devastating injuries.

## Kansas City Chiefs **C**

The big offer never came: The Chiefs never made a play for Barry Sanders. Then again, they didn't draft a running back, either. Alabama's Shaun Alexander nearly fell to



# 2000 DRAFT RECAP

## Round 1

1	Courtney Brown	DL	CLE
2	LaVar Arrington	LB	WAS
3	Chris Samuels	OL	WAS
4	Peter Warrick	WR	CIN
5	Jamal Lewis	RB	BAL
6	Corey Simon	DL	PHI
7	Thomas Jones	RB	ARI
8	Plaxico Burress	WR	PIT
9	Brian Urlacher	LB	CHI
10	Travis Taylor	WR	BAL
11	Ron Dayne	RB	NYG
12	Shaun Ellis	DL	NYJ
13	John Abraham	LB	NYJ
14	Bubba Franks	TE	GB
15	Deltha O'Neal	DB	DEN
16	Julian Peterson	LB	SF
17	Sebastian Janikowski	PK	OAK
18	Chad Pennington	QB	NYJ
19	Shaun Alexander	RB	SEA
20	Stockar McDougle	OL	DET
21	Sylvester Morris	WR	KC
22	Chris McIntosh	OL	SEA
23	Rashard Anderson	DB	CAR
24	Ahmed Plummer	DB	SF
25	Chris Hovan	DL	MIN
26	Erik Flowers	DL	BUF
27	Anthony Becht	TE	NYJ
28	Rob Morris	LB	IND
29	R. Jay Soward	WR	JAC
30	Keith Bulluck	LB	TEN
31	Trung Canidate	RB	STL

## Round 2

32	Dennis Northcutt	WR	CLE
33	Darren Howard	DL	NO
34	Mark Roman	DB	CIN
35	John Engelberger	DL	SF
36	Todd Pinkston	WR	PHI
37	Travis Claridge	OL	ATL
38	Marvel Smith	OL	PIT
39	Mike Brown	DB	CHI
40	Ian Gold	LB	DEN
41	Raynoch Thompson	LB	ARI
42	Cornelius Griffin	DL	NYG
43	Rogers Beckett	DB	SD
44	Chad Clifton	OL	GB
45	Kenoy Kennedy	DB	DEN
46	Adrian Klemm	OL	NE
47	Jerry Porter	WR	OAK
48	Jason Webster	DB	SF
49	Dwayne Goodrich	DB	Dal
50	Barrett Green	LB	DET
51	Cosey Coleman	OL	TB
52	Ike Charlton	DB	SEA
53	Todd Wade	OL	MIA
54	William Bartee	DB	KC
55	Fred Robbins	DL	MIN
56	Michael Boireau	DL	MIN
57	Deon Grant	DB	CAR
58	Travares Tillman	DB	BUF
59	Marcus Washington	LB	IND
60	Brad Meester	OL	JAC
61	Bobby Williams	OL	PHI
62	Jacoby Shepherd	DB	STL

## Round 3

63	Travis Prentice	RB	CLE
64	Lloyd Harrison	DB	WAS
65	Giovanni Carmazzi	QB	SF
66	Ron Dugans	WR	CIN
67	Mark Simoneau	LB	ATL
68	Erron Kinney	TE	TEN
69	Dez White	WR	CHI
70	Chris Cole	WR	DEN
71	Darwin Walker	DL	ARI
72	Kendrick Clancy	DL	PIT
73	Ron Dixon	WR	NYG
74	Steve Warren	DL	GB
75	Chris Redman	QB	BAL
76	J.R. Redmond	RB	NE
77	Hank Poteat	DB	PIT
78	Laveranues Coles	WR	NYJ
79	Jajuan Dawson	WR	CLE
80	Darrell Jackson	WR	SEA
81	Reuben Droughns	RB	DET
82	Leandro Jordan	OL	CAR
83	Damion McIntosh	OL	SD
84	Ben Kelly	DB	MIA

85	Greg Wesley	DB	KC
86	Jeff Ulbrich	LB	SF
87	Dustin Lyman	LB	CHI
88	Doug Chapman	RB	MIN
89	Corey Moore	LB	BUF
90	Nate Webster	LB	TB
91	David Macklin	DB	IND
92	T.J. Slaughter	LB	JAC
93	Byron Frisch	DL	TEN
94	John St. Clair	OL	STL

## Round 4

95	Lewis Sanders	DB	CLE
96	Terrelle Smith	RB	NO
97	Curtis Keaton	RB	CIN
98	Na'il Diggs	LB	GB
99	Gari Scott	WR	PHI
100	Michael Thompson	OL	ATL
101	Jerry Johnson	DL	DEN
102	David Barrett	DB	ARI
103	Danny Farmer	WR	PIT
104	Kaulana Noa	OL	STL
105	Brandon Short	LB	NYG
106	Antonio Wilson	LB	MIN
107	Junior Ioane	DL	OAK
108	John Keith	DB	SF
109	Kareem Larrimore	DB	Dal
110	Aaron Shea	RB	CLE
111	Trevor Gaylor	WR	SD
112	Cooper Carlisle	OL	DEN
113	Leonardo Carson	DL	SD
114	Anthony Lucas	WR	GB
115	Frank Moreau	RB	KC
116	Marcus Bell	LB	SEA
117	Deon Dyer	RB	MIA
118	Tyrone Carter	DB	MIN
119	Isiah Kacyvenski	LB	SEA
120	Alvin McKinley	DL	CAR
121	Avion Black	WR	BUF
122	Josh Williams	DL	IND
123	Joey Chustz	OL	JAC
124	Bobby Myers	DB	TEN
125	Reggie Austin	DB	CHI
126	Gary Berry	DB	GB
127	Greg Robinson-Randall	OL	NE
128	Peter Sirmon	LB	TEN
129	Michael Moore	OL	WAS

## Round 5

130	Anthony Malbrough	DB	CLE
131	Tutan Reyes	OL	NO
132	Paul Smith	RB	SF
133	Robert Bean	DB	CIN
134	Anthony Midget	DB	ATL
135	Aric Morris	DB	TEN
136	Mao Tosi	DL	ARI
137	Clark Haggans	DL	PIT
138	Matt Johnson	OL	IND
139	Brian Young	DL	STL
140	Ralph Brown	DB	NYG
141	Dave Stachelski	TE	NE
142	Shane Lechler	K/P	OAK
143	Windrell Hayes	WR	NYJ
144	Michael Wiley	RB	Dal
145	Todd Franz	DB	DET
146	Lamar Chapman	DB	CLE
147	Gillis Wilson	DL	CAR
148	Richard Mercier	OL	BAL
149	Kabeer Gbaja-Biamila	DL	GB
150	John Miley	DL	SF
151	Joey Jamison	WR	GB
152	Arturo Freeman	DB	MIA
153	Dante Hall	RB	KC
154	Muneer Moore	WR	DEN
155	Quincy Sanders	DB	WAS
156	Sammy Morris	RB	BUF
157	James Whalen	TE	TB
158	Austin Wheatley	TE	NO
159	Kiwauke Thomas	DB	JAC
160	Frank Chamberlin	LB	TEN
161	Jeff Marriotti	DL	NE
162	Pat Dennis	DB	KC
163	Tee Martin	QB	PIT
164	Jay Tant	TE	ARI
165	Troy Walters	WR	MIN
166	Chad Morton	RB	NO

## Round 6

167	Earnest Grant	DL	MIA
168	Marc Bulger	QB	NO

169	Neil Rackers	K/P	CIN
170	Frank Murphy	RB	CHI
171	Thomas Hamner	RB	PHI
172	Mareno Phillyaw	WR	ATL
173	Chris Combs	DL	PIT
174	Paul Edinger	K/P	CHI
175	James Williams	WR	SEA
176	Jabari Issa	DL	ARI
177	Dhani Jones	LB	NYG
178	John Frank	DL	PHI
179	Tony Scott	DB	NYJ
180	Mario Edwards	DB	Dal
181	Quinton Reese	DL	DET
182	Jeno James	OL	CAR
183	Spergon Wynn	QB	CLE
184	Shannon Taylor	LB	SD
185	Tim Watson	DL	SEA
186	Adalius Thomas	DL	BAL
187	Antwan Harris	DB	NE
188	Darnell Alford	OL	KC
189	Mike Anderson	RB	DEN
190	John Hilliard	DL	SEA
191	Cedric Woodard	DL	BAL
192	John Romero	OL	PHI
193	David Gibson	DB	TB
194	Leif Larsen	DL	BUF
195	Michael Hawthorne	DB	NO
196	Emanuel Smith	WR	JAC
197	Robaire Smith	DL	TEN
198	Matt Bowen	DB	STL
199	Tom Brady	QB	NE
200	Sherrod Gideon	WR	NO
201	David Nugent	DL	NE
202	Todd Husak	QB	WAS
203	Damen Wheeler	DB	SD
204	Jason Gavadza	TE	PIT
205	Ja Juan Seider	QB	SD
206	Brad Bedell	OL	CLE

## Round 7

207	Manuia Savea	OL	CLE
208	Desmond Kitchings	WR	KC
209	Eric Chandler	DL	CLE
210	Brad St. Louis	TE	CIN
211	Darrick Vaughn	DB	ATL
212	Tim Rattay	QB	SF
213	Mike Green	RB	TEN
214	Jarious Jackson	QB	DEN
215	Sekou Sanyika	LB	ARI
216	Delbert Cowsette	DL	WAS
217	Jeremiah Parker	DL	NYG
218	Richard Seals	DL	NYJ
219	Orantes Grant	LB	Dal
220	Andrew Kline	OL	STL
221	Lester Towns	LB	CAR
222	Jason Thomas	OL	SD
223	James Cotton	DL	CHI
224	Mark Tauscher	OL	GB
225	Rashidi Barnes	DB	CLE
226	Casey Tisdale	DL	NE
227	Mondriel Fulcher	TE	OAK
228	Kevin Houser	TE	NO
229	Ron Moore	DL	GB
230	Brian Jennings	TE	SF
231	Clifton Black	DB	OAK
232	Jeff Harris	DB	MIA
233	Drew Haddad	WR	BUF
234	Joe Hamilton	QB	TB
235	Rob Renes	DB	IND
236	Erik Olson	DB	JAC
237	Wes Shivers	OL	TEN
238	Rodregis Brooks	DB	IND
239	Patrick Pass	RB	NE
240	Mike Malano	OL	MIN
241	Rob Meier	DL	JAC
242	Charles Lee	WR	GB
243	Shyrone Stith	RB	JAC
244	Giles Cole	TE	MIN
245	Danny Clark	LB	JAC
246	Leroy Fields	WR	DEN
247	Mark Baniewicz	OL	JAC
248	Lewis Kelly	OL	MIN
249	Eugene McCaslin	LB	GB
250	Ethan Howell	WR	WAS
251	Deshon Polk	LB	BUF
252	Rondell Mealey	RB	GB
253	Alfonso Boone	DL	DET
254	Michael Green	DB	CHI

K.C. but was scooped up by the hated Seahawks. So they audibled and chose **Sylvester Morris**, a fine receiver from Jackson State who will complement Derrick Alexander. Kansas City went for d-backs in rounds two (**William Bartee**, Oklahoma) and three (**Greg Wesley**, Arkansas-Pine Bluff), which tells you they are playing the numbers game. Meanwhile, what about the running back? The Chiefs have been looking ever since the "Nigerian Nightmare" (ex-Chief Christian Okoye) woke up. Certainly, Louisville's **Frank Moreau**, a 230-pounder, and Texas A&M's **Dante Hill**, fourth- and fifth-rounders, respectively, aren't the answer. Actually, it's pretty simple: Go get Barry.

## San Diego Chargers **D**

Oh, the Bolts didn't have a first-round pick—again. Building through the draft ... silly thought. The one pick that keeps this draft from total failure is Marshall University safety **Rogers Beckett**, a second-round pick who could be a big-time player in this league. But tackle **Damion McIntosh** (Kansas State) appears a stretch in the third round, and you wonder if Bobby Beathard was trying to out-genius himself with small-school players such as wideout **Trevor Gaylor** (Miami of Ohio), guard **Jason Thomas** (Hampton) and quarterback **JaJuan Seider** (Florida A&M) in the later rounds. Seider, for one, could have been had as an undrafted free agent. By the way, where have you gone, Ryan Leaf?

## Oakland Raiders **D-**

It is true: The world is blinded by a good kicker. Now say he's built like a lineman, has the leg of a mule and loves to be a character. What you have is Al Davis' dream. So it was no surprise the Raiders reached to Warsaw to make **Sebastian Janikowski** the first kicker taken in the first round since the "Bust of the Century," one Russell Erxleben, taken by New Orleans with the 11th pick in 1979. Janikowski went No. 17, when there were still some real players left to help change the fortunes of a team that lost three games by three points or fewer and all eight by a total of 34. Look past the bluster and what you have is a kicker who made only 76 percent of kicks last year and could—yes, it's a long shot—be deported. One picture told the entire story: The pained look of coach Jon Gruden. In the second round, Oakland opted for wideout **Jerry Porter** (West Virginia), who is an outstanding athlete but questionable football player.



# MOCK DRAFT 2001

**Surprise! Georgia's Carter may be 'top dawg' in 2001 NFL Draft.**

By Jim Carley

All eyes will be on a quarterback in the NFL Draft again next season, but it might not be the one you think.

Purdue's Drew Brees and Florida State's Chris Weinke are getting most of the pre-season publicity around the country. But underclassman Quincy Carter of Georgia is the one pro scouts value above them all.

And as such, Carter sits at the top of *Street & Smith's* Mock Draft 2001.

The 6-2, 200-pound Carter will be a fourth-year junior and, with his worth skyrocketing, many observers expect Carter to come out for next year's draft. Carter played

minor league baseball for two years before returning to football and will turn 23 during this season.

He's considered a quarterback in the mold of the "Quarterback Class of 1999," which produced such players as Tim Couch, Daunte Culpepper, Cade McNown and Donovan McNabb. Scouts say no quarterback of that caliber was in last year's draft, and NFL teams are anxious to get to Carter.

Carter has good size, a great arm and is very athletic. His elusiveness and "escapability" make him especially valuable to the pros. "He has that ability," says one NFL

scout, "to make something out of nothing."

If Carter doesn't come out, Brees and Weinke will be the focus of teams needing a quarterback. Brees, who has a very accurate arm, will probably go higher, at least in part because he's younger. Weinke played minor league baseball six seasons before enrolling at Florida State and will turn 28 this season.

"Some teams might back off on him because of that," says one NFL personnel director. "It takes a while for any quarterback to adjust. So they might figure he'll be 30 or 31 before he's ready to play in the NFL."

## Round One, 2001



Quincy Carter



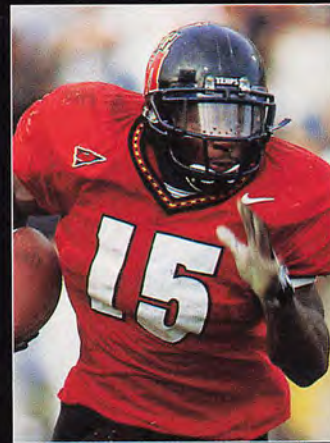
Santana Moss

1. *Quincy Carter	QB	Georgia
2. LaMont Jordan	RB	Maryland
3. Andre Carter	DE	California
4. *Alex Brown	DE	Florida
5. Santana Moss	WR	Miami
6. Gary Baxter	DB	Baylor
7. James Jackson	RB	Miami
8. Drew Brees	QB	Purdue
9. Steve Hutchinson	OL	Michigan
10. Ennis Davis	DT	Southern Cal
11. Antuan Simmons	DB	Southern Cal
12. Ben Hamilton	OL	Minnesota
13. Anthony Thomas	RB	Michigan
14. Leonard Davis	OT	Texas
15. Bobby Newcombe	WR	Nebraska
16. Roland Seymour	DE	Florida State
17. Kareem McKenzie	OL	Penn State
18. Ken-Yon Rambo	WR	Ohio State
19. Jamal Reynolds	DE	Florida State
20. Dan Morgan	LB	Miami
21. Karon Riley	DE	Minnesota
22. *Jamar Fletcher	DB	Wisconsin
23. Chris Weinke	QB	Florida State
24. LaDainian Tomlinson	RB	TCU
25. *Jashon Sykes	LB	Colorado
26. Tommy Polley	LB	Florida State
27. Robert Carswell	DB	Clemson
28. Chad Ward	OL	Washington
29. Latef Grim	WR	Pittsburgh
30. Russ Hochstein	OL	Nebraska
31. Deuce McAllister	RB	Mississippi

\*underclassman



Antuan Simmons



LaMont Jordan

**OTHERS TO WATCH:** Josh Heupel, QB, Oklahoma; Brian Allen, LB, Florida State; Nate Poole, WR, Marshall; Jimmy Williams, CB, Vanderbilt; Casey Hampton, DT, Texas; Marques Tuiasosopo, QB, Washington; Casey Rabach, OL, Wisconsin; Damione Lewis, DT, Miami; Rod Gardner, WR, Clemson; Reggie Wayne, WR, Miami; Roylin Bradley, LB, Texas A&M; Travis Minor, RB, Florida State; Ortege Jenkins, QB, Arizona; Jeff Backus, OL, Michigan; Richard Seymour, DE, Georgia; \*Keith Adams, LB, Clemson; Carlos Polk, LB, Nebraska; Kenny Smith, DT, Alabama.



# DRAFT DAZE



Arrington



# A behind-the-scenes look at the weeks leading up the NFL Draft shows how top picks LaVar Arrington, Peter Warrick and Chris Samuels survived all the scrutiny.

By Lenn Robbins

When all the weighing and measuring and timing and background checks are complete, the National Football League draft remains a crapshoot, a high-stakes guessing game, a franchise's dream come true or worst nightmare.

Which team will draft a Ryan Leaf instead of a Peyton Manning or a Jevon Kearse instead of a Demetrius Underwood? Which team will trade its entire draft for a Ricky Williams? Which teams will pass on Randy Moss but swarm like sharks with blood in the water to draft Blair Thomas?

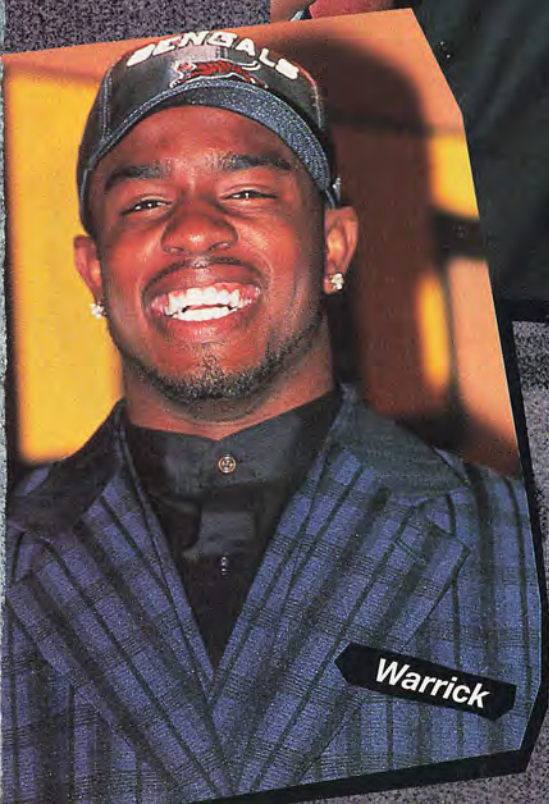
The 2000 draft posed similar dilemmas for players and teams. There were elite athletes who came with questions, questions that could not necessarily be answered by a stopwatch or a strength test. Three players fit into that category.

Florida State's Peter Warrick was considered the top receiver in a draft loaded with potentially great wideouts. But Warrick's character was called into question after he was arrested for purchasing \$412 in clothing for \$21 at a Dillard's department store.


Alabama's Chris Samuels was the preeminent offensive tackle in a draft lacking in quality linemen. Samuels is the kind of model citizen the NFL is hoping to restock, but late-season knee surgery left teams wondering if he was a physical risk.

And Penn State's LaVar Arrington was considered the best outsider linebacker in a draft top-heavy with players at that spot. Arrington left after a junior year in which he made many highlight-reel plays but also seemed to take off some downs. Would this talented underclassman be consistent enough for the NFL?

Here's a look at how all three approached the draft and how the NFL approached them. Only time will tell if Warrick, Samuels and Arrington will make their teams' general managers look good or if they have some explaining to do.







There have never been questions about Peter Warrick's ability to make big plays such as this one last season against North Carolina.



## PETER WARRICK: Fouled-up 40

Perhaps the best day in Warrick's pre-draft preparation came on March 16th, a rainy day in Tallahassee, Florida. Warrick, along with former Florida State wide receivers Ron Dugans and Laveranues Coles, were to run drills for the Cleveland Browns, who owned the No. 1 pick in the draft.

Because of the weather, the workouts were moved indoors, on a basketball court. Dugans and Coles were wearing the appropriate footwear for such conditions, but Warrick still had on his outdoor rubber nubbies.

Dugans and Coles ran their 40 yards in the high 4.3s. Warrick shockingly was clocked at 4.61.

The only upside to his downtime? For one day, at least, Warrick didn't have to answer questions about "The Arrest."

"When you look at what Peter Warrick did, it's not a serious issue," says Browns Vice President for Personnel Dwight Clark. "It's not about drugs and it's not violence. He made a mistake and he apologized for it. You talk to a lot more people to make sure you're not getting into a situation that comes back to bite you in the butt."

Warrick spoke little to the media in the weeks leading up to the draft. When reports of the Dillard's arrest came to light, Warrick did apologize but used a poor choice of words when he said it wasn't as if he had killed the president. His point was the same as Clark's, just as not as eloquently spoken.

Every GM who met with Warrick came away with the same impression: Warrick was, in fact, a decent young man who had made one error in judgement.

"I came here," Warrick said at the Indianapolis combine, "to show people that I'm a great guy off the field as well as on the field."

Actually, Warrick had showed that in the national championship game when he caught two touchdown passes, returned a punt 59 yards for another touchdown, and caught a two-point conversion pass. But NFL talent scouts can be so paranoid when it comes to height, strength, speed, etc., that Warrick's speed became more of an issue than his character in the days leading up to the draft.

He ran a 4.48 for the Redskins one week after his hobble on the hardwood. But the damage already was done. Arrington and Penn State defensive end Courtney Brown, both of whom had posted faster 40 times than Warrick, leap-frogged to the top of the draft.

"My gift is what I can do with the football after I catch it," said Warrick, one of those players who gains speed when wearing a helmet and pads while being chased by tacklers. "No matter where I am on the football field, I feel I can score a touchdown."

Warrick was picked fourth by the Cincinnati Bengals. Feeling slighted, he reminded AFC Central rival Cleveland, who used the first overall pick on Brown, that he would prove in the two regular-season games this season that the Browns had erred.

## CHRIS SAMUELS: Knee-jerk reactions

For a big ole kid from Mobile, Alabama, Samuels is accustomed to Southern manners and minding one's business. So when scouts, by the hundreds, arrived in his hometown for the Senior Bowl, Samuels was caught off-guard by the audacity of their curiosity.

"One day they had us all in this big ballroom walking around in nothing except our underwear," said Samuels. "I remember thinking, 'This is how the girls must feel in the swimsuit part of a beauty pageant.' Except none of us were that pretty."

Ah, when it comes to the draft, beauty is in the eye of the beholder and there were a lot of reasons for scouts to swoon over Samuels. After redshirting as a freshman at Alabama, Samuels started the final seven games of his redshirt freshman season and was a starter the rest of his career.

He's mature. He's got a mean streak on the field. And, unlike Warrick, he's never had any off-field problems.

"In terms of left tackles in this draft," said Washington Redskins Director of Player Personnel Vinny Cerrato, "there's him (Samuels), and then there's everybody else."

Samuels is monster of a player, easily carrying 320 pounds on his 6-foot-5 frame.



At 6-foot-5, 320 pounds, Alabama star Chris Samuels should make Redskins quarterback Brad Johnson's life much easier in Washington.



**Washington believes that tackle Chris Samuels (60) can help the 'Skins raise the Super Bowl flag just like his Alabama team did for an SEC title.**



to Memphis to see his agent and continue a regimen of working out with fitness trainer Orlando McKay, director of operations for Ahead of the Game, an athletic-enhancement training facility.

Samuels, who as a freshman at Alabama actually considered quitting football because he was intimidated by the size and speed of teammates, was now a terrifying physical specimen. At the end of the day, however, Chris Samuels was able to go back to being a big kid. He spent most of his nights playing PlayStation video games and thinking about draft day.

"I never dreamed I'd be a high top 10 pick," said Samuels a few days before the draft. "Now I hear people talking about me going two, three or four. I'm just amazed."

Samuels went third to the Washington Redskins, who last season drafted Michigan's Jon Jansen, now a mainstay at right tackle. Samuels could give them a bookend at the left tackle position.

He'll be tested soon enough. The Redskins signed free-agent defensive end Bruce Smith, who's been known to undress many an offensive lineman. Samuels prefers to keep his clothes on.

### **LAVAR ARRINGTON: Inconsistent behavior**

**W**ith the exception of Warrick, no player had a higher profile in this draft than Arrington, which is exactly how he likes it.

"I'm probably the best player in the draft," said Arrington. "Just look at the film and see it for yourself. I bring a certain attitude to the game."

"Attitude" should be Arrington's middle name. Consider that on draft day—in addition to taking his entire family, extended family and friends to New York—he also brought his barber and tailor.

And, of course, Kevin Poston, a smart, shrewd and stubborn agent, was in attendance. Poston may not strike fear in the hearts of GMs, but his willingness to have a client hold out is as unsettling as a call from the IRS. Like Arrington, he's aggressive.

Arrington tried to allay concerns about his representation by claiming that, "I'm the boss of my team. Whatever happens, it's going to be my call."

It's always been Arrington's call. The former *Parade* and Gatorade High School Player of the Year wasted little time establishing himself as a rebel with many causes at Penn State. When he didn't start the first game of

He has long, strong arms, which are ideal for pass-blocking and, with 4.95 speed in the 40, a pulling Chris Samuels can be as frightening as a runaway Peterbilt.

But nothing frightens scouts more than a player with a potential injury problem, especially a knee injury. So when Samuels underwent minor arthroscopic surgery on his right knee January 7, the red flag went up.

With the exception of running the 40, Samuels couldn't participate in any drills or workouts in the Senior Bowl or at the Indianapolis combine, so all that was left for the head coaches and GMs was to weigh, measure and interview Samuels. Actually, they wanted to interview his knee.

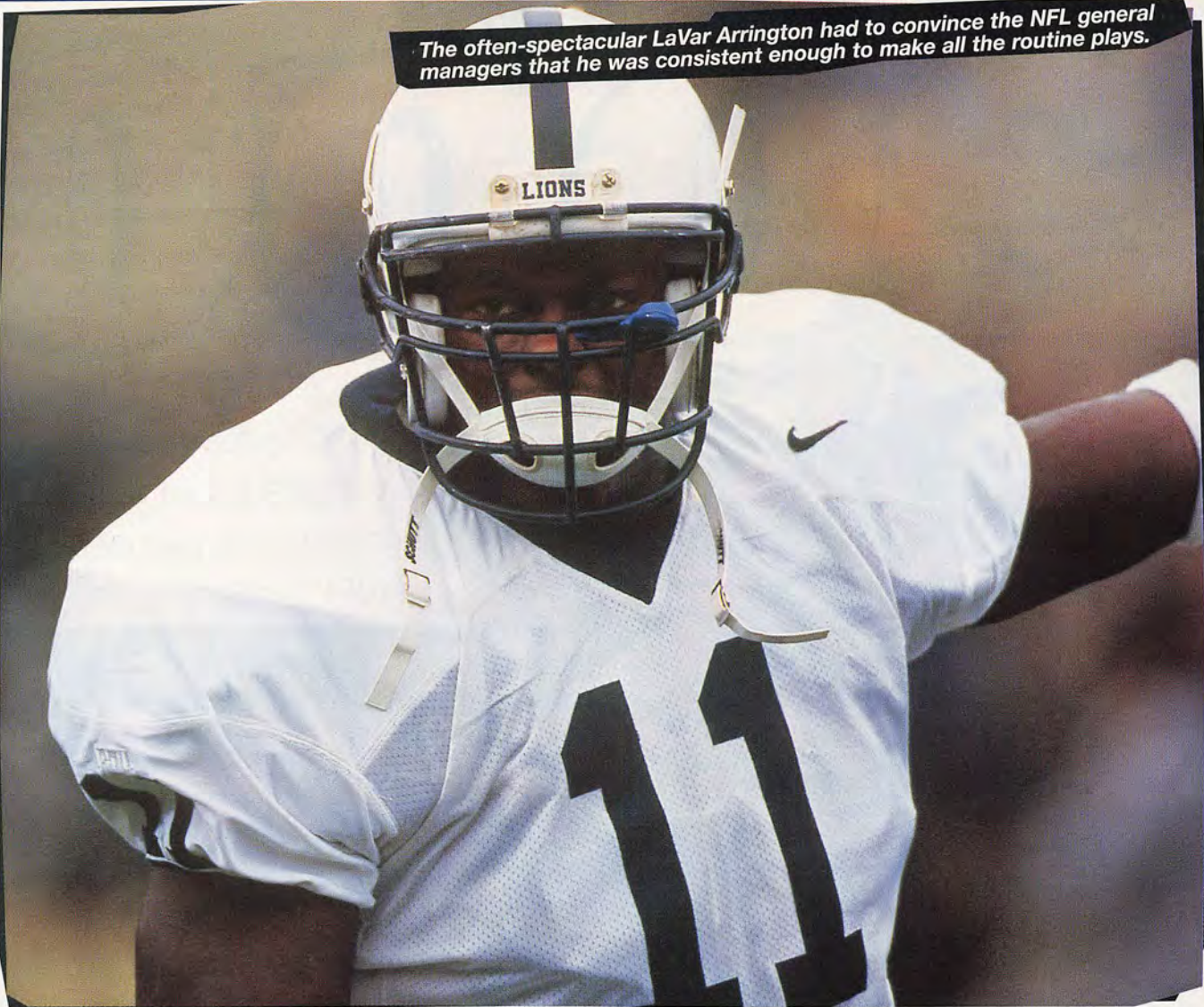
"They all wanted to know about the knee," said Samuels. "I knew it was just a little surgery, but these guys were about to invest a lot of money in a player, so I understood their concern. After a while, though, it was the knee this and the knee that. They'd pull on it this way and that way. My knee was very popular."

Samuels' knee, chaperoned by the rest of his body, became even more popular when he hosted NFL scouts at Alabama on March 21 for a workout. He ran a 5.12, then a 5.02, then a 4.98 in the 40. He did all the agility drills. He bench-pressed 225 pounds 19 times.

Concerns about the knee had finally been laid to rest. Samuels was able to return



**The often-spectacular LaVar Arrington had to convince the NFL general managers that he was consistent enough to make all the routine plays.**



his sophomore season, Arrington labeled coach Joe Paterno as outdated.

Just prior to his junior season, Arrington humbly declared himself the best linebacker in the nation. And at times he was.

His signature play became the "LaVar Leap," a Superman-esque maneuver in which, in one game, he soared over two Illinois offensive linemen to drop running back Elmer Hickman for no gain on a fourth-and-inches play. He used the same awesome athleticism last season to block a potential game-tying 52-yard field goal attempt by Pittsburgh's Nick Lotz with four seconds left.

But scouts started to wonder about Arrington's consistency. When he wasn't making spectacular plays, he wasn't making any plays, or he was running himself out of plays. Despite all of his breathtaking physical talent, perhaps Arrington needed another season of maturity.

"A lot of scouts seemed to ask that question," said Arrington's father, Michael. "He said they wanted to know if maybe

LaVar could play with a little more control. Sometimes in his excitement and exuberance to try and make an outstanding play—a special play on every down—he was a little too aggressive."

The Redskins never bought into that criticism. In fact, they quietly kept their fingers crossed and hoped that the Cleveland Browns would take Brown, Arrington's more even-keeled Penn State teammate, with the first pick. The 'Skins already had gotten their pass-rushing defensive end by signing Smith.

Defensive coordinator Ray Rhodes and linebackers coach Foge Fazio wanted a playmaker for a defense that finished 30th in the NFL last season. They wanted a high-voltage player and personality, making Arrington the hands-down choice and removing almost all doubt as to whom the Skins would take.

"They told me they want a guy who will blow up a play, run to the ball and make my presence known, get inside the other team's head, don't be shy," recalled Arrington. "I

said, 'You want LaVar Arrington.' They said, 'Yes, we do.'"

The Redskins said "I do" to Arrington on draft day, making him the second player taken in the draft. While Arrington mugged for the cameras and joked with reporters, Poston held court in the back of the interview room, where Washington-based reporters were trying to determine if the No. 2 pick was looking for a deal similar to the six-year, \$45-million contract signed by Brown.

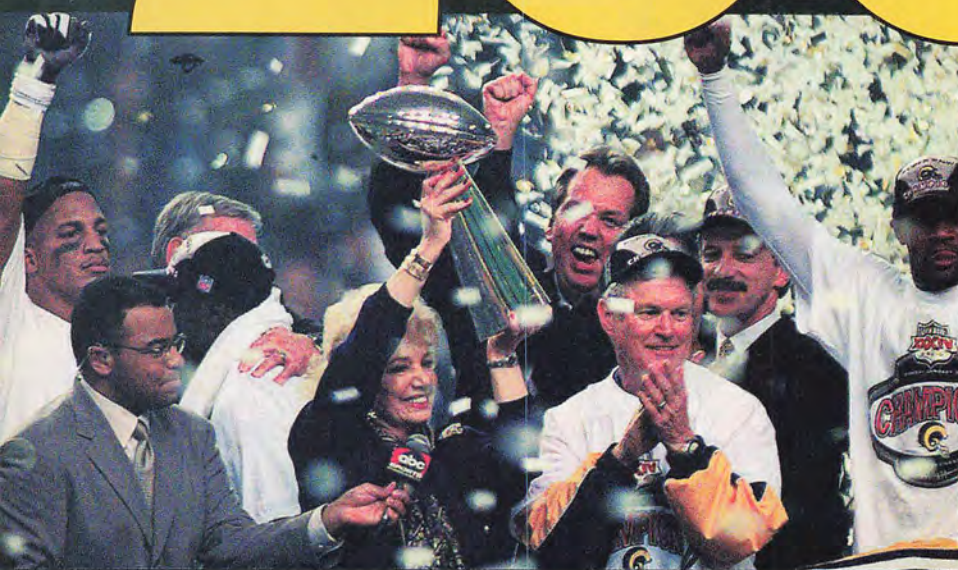
"We felt LaVar Arrington was the best player in this draft and we still do," Poston said after Arrington was taken with the second pick. "That's no disrespect to Courtney Brown or Peter Warrick. But on the field and off the field, LaVar Arrington is a leader, and leaders make other players better.

"We're talking about the High School Player of the Year and the Butkus Award winner. LaVar makes things happen wherever he goes."

The question is, will LaVar go his own way?



# THE 2000



A look at who's up, who's down and what's around the corner of the new NFL millennium.

By Don Pierson, *Chicago Tribune*

**N**o more tears, please. The NFL is drowning in sentiment. Last season was enough to make grown men cry—with joy, sadness, pity, disgust. Enough, already. This is football. Let's play it, coach it, watch it like men.

A woman won it all for the first time. Georgia Frontiere didn't cry, but her coach did. This macho world has been turned upside down.

Kurt Warner, Mrs. Frontiere's stockboy-turned-quarterback, completed a story of heart-rending warmth that coaxed a lump in the throat.

The St. Louis Rams, once a crying shame, are Super Bowl champions. Clip that sentence. It could soon win a barroom bet. Despite a memorable season, who will remember the Rams are the best team in football? Their meteoric rise means only one thing: watch out for the Philadelphia Eagles.

Brett Favre, a three-time MVP, cried after his first game. He must have known the Green Bay Packers were going to finish 8-8.

Sincere tears of sadness were

shed over the deaths of Walter Payton, Tom Landry, Derrick Thomas—all before their time.

There was crying in Denver and Atlanta, where Super Bowl running backs Terrell Davis and Jamal Anderson were knocked out early with knee injuries.

Tears of outrage flow over the arrests of star players charged with serious crimes. This is not the kind of NFL that will continue to attract billions of viewers and dollars.

Say goodbye to Mike Ditka, Jimmy Johnson, Dick Vermeil—Super Bowl coaches who have left the arena for good this time.

Say goodbye to Dan Marino, who left Miami after 17 years and no Super Bowl ring. Sadder still, he left because the Dolphins didn't want him anymore. Classy as always, he blamed the departure on his own body. And he didn't cry about it.

Most of all, let's say goodbye to tears for a while. Give football a break. No wonder Robert Wood Johnson bought the New York Jets. He's from Johnson & Johnson, makers of baby shampoo. No more tears.



## SHUFFLING OUT OF BUFFALO

Mr. Bruce Smith goes to Washington. Thurman Thomas goes to Miami. Andre Reed goes to his web site. Doug Flutie goes to the bench. Special teams coach Bruce DeHaven goes to the woodshed. The Buffalo Bills go back to the future.

They started the '90s with four straight Super Bowl appearances. They ended them on the wrong end of Home Run Throwback. But they are starting the 21st century without an ounce of leftover sentiment.



## FORWARDING

## ADDRESSES

**Trent Dilfer** is a Baltimore Raven. **Jeff Blake** is a New Orleans Saint. **Jay Fiedler** is a Miami Dolphin. **Kent Graham** is a Pittsburgh Steeler. **Gus Frerotte** is a Denver Bronco. **Mike Tomczak** is a Detroit Lion and **Scott Mitchell** is a Cincinnati Bengal.

Will any of this quarterback shuffling make a hoot of difference? No quarterback yet has changed uniforms in free agency and taken a team to a Super Bowl. Tennessee's **Neil O'Donnell** is closest, contributing four wins in relief toward the Titans' AFC championship.

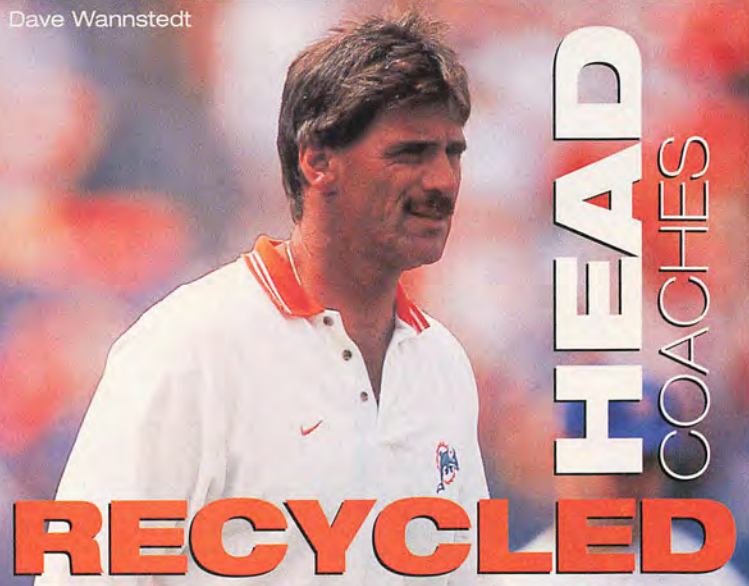
Speaking of O'Donnell, he could have moved again, but chose to stay in Tennessee. For less money. No, that couldn't be right. Is that true? It sounds made up.

## FOR FORWARD PASSERS



Trent Dilfer

Dave Wannstedt



## HEAD COACHES

## RECYCLED

**Bill Belichick, New England Patriots:** After his second one-day stint as head coach of the New York Jets (he preceded Bill Parcells, remember), Belichick will try to make himself at home with the Patriots, who actually thought he was worth a No. 1 draft choice. They better hope home isn't anything like Cleveland.

**Dave Wannstedt, Miami Dolphins:** Not many retiring coaches get to name their successors, especially if they don't own the team. But Jimmy Johnson succeeded where Parcells failed in getting his defensive coordinator to follow him. Things have to be better in Miami for Wannstedt than they were in Chicago, don't they?

## HEAD COACHES

## NEW



Al Groh

**Al Groh, New York Jets:** Third choice behind Bill Parcells and Bill Belichick. Is thinking of changing name to Bill. Good guy. Nice to see him get a chance. Reminder: Jets have employed nice guys before.

**Dave Campo, Dallas Cowboys:** Fourth coach of Jerry Jones after Jimmy Johnson, Barry Switzer and whathizname—oh yeah, Chan Gailey. Does anybody detect a march to oblivion? Jones said 500 guys could coach his team and he seems determined to try every one of them.

**Mike Martz, St. Louis Rams:** Like Kurt Warner, Martz came from practically nowhere. A receiver coach who wasn't particularly successful at Arizona State as offensive coordinator, he shot up the charts right along with Warner. Somebody has to get some credit.

**Jim Haslett, New Orleans Saints:** He came from Pittsburgh, where his recent experience with a lack of talent will suit him well for his new challenge. Go ahead. You try to win with rejects from the Cincinnati Bengals.

**Mike Sherman, Green Bay Packers:** Most obscure new hire, he listed seventh-grade teacher among his qualifications. Maybe that's what the Packers need after Ray Rhodes failed to school them.



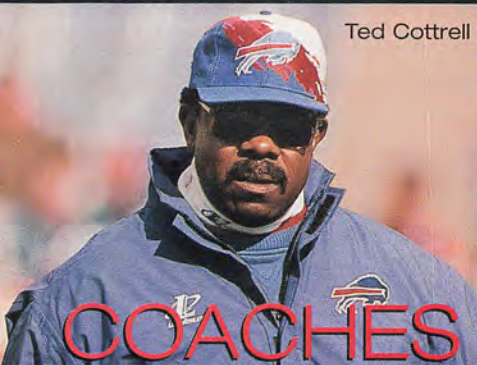
# 2000 NFL

## A COACH MISSED



## BOBB McKITTRICK

The only coaching link to all five San Francisco 49er Super Bowls, McKittrick died of cancer after battling the disease for more than a season, refusing to either give up or take much time off work. He coached the unsung offensive lines and never got a lot of help in the draft. Foes criticized his blocking tactics. Nobody questions his dedication or impact on the game.



Ted Cottrell

## COACHES

Despite all the coaching changes, there weren't very many coaching interviews, which means minorities once again were left out of the process. Martz, Wannstedt, Groh and Campo all were insider deals designed not to disrupt staffs already in place. Belichick was intended that way before he got cold feet in New York.

Meanwhile, a successful defensive coordinator such as **Ted Cottrell** of Buffalo gets nary a phone call, much less an interview. Who is Cottrell? The Bills led the league in defense without placing a single defensive player in the Pro Bowl. When Wannstedt did that in Dallas, it created a scramble for the services of the coach. What's the difference? It couldn't be as plain as black and white, could it?

## OVERLOOKED

## COACHES ON THE HOT SEAT

**Norv Turner, Washington:** As long as Daniel Snyder owns the Redskins, whoever is coaching his team will be on a hot seat. If the Redskins lose any games this year, and word is they might, watch out.

**Jim Fassel, New York Giants:** Another year, another quarterback. Pretty soon, it's going to be another coach.

**Vince Tobin, Arizona Cardinals:** He doesn't like being a lame duck coach, but Bill Bidwill gave him no choice. Bidwill has fired too many coaches over the years to extend contracts after 6-10 seasons.

**Dennis Green, Minnesota Vikings:** Green has taken over everything in Minnesota except the owner, leaving Red McCombs nowhere else to look for blame. Another playoff appearance will make it eight out of nine years, but this time eight might not be enough.

**Wade Phillips, Buffalo Bills:** Couldn't win with Bruce Smith, Thurman Thomas and Andre Reed; he better win without them.

**Tom Coughlin, Jacksonville Jaguars:** The record is good enough to withstand a horrible season, but Coughlin might decide another playoff disappointment will be enough to drive him away, like maybe to South Bend, Indiana, where rumors already are flying.

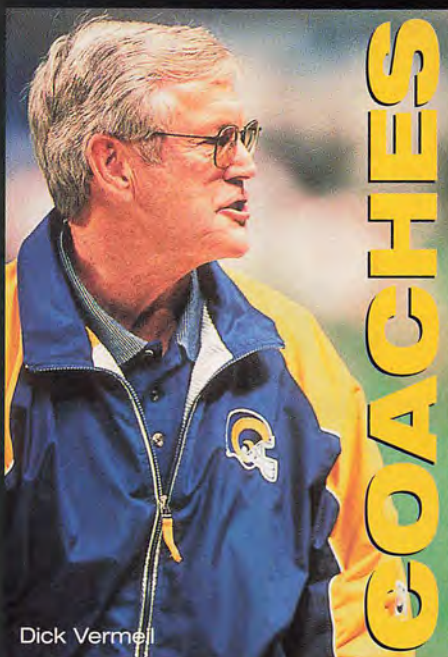
**Bill Cowher, Pittsburgh Steelers:** He survived a power struggle with Director of Football Operations Tom Donahoe. Like Green, that leaves Cowher with a bigger bull's-eye on his chest.

**Bruce Coslet, Cincinnati Bengals:** Ordinarily coaches who win as infrequently as Coslet are ex-coaches. So this is unpredictable territory. After three wins in 1998 and four in 1999, five wins keeps him on the course of progress.

**Jon Gruden, Oakland Raiders:** Eight and eight followed by eight and eight means anything less than nine wins and Gruden will be wondering where he can eat.



Tom Coughlin



Dick Vermeil

## COACHES

### Dick Vermeil

This time the poster boy for coaching burnout went out in a blaze of glory. It was time, no doubt. Winning the Super Bowl took no less a toll on Vermeil's constitution than losing one. But he was a great story.

### Mike Ditka

His marriage to Ricky Williams on the rocks after one injury-plagued season, Ditka limps out of football and back to the television booth where his volatile personality is more appreciated.

### Jimmy Johnson

He left Miami on a boat and wants to disappear until football fans forget he lost his final game 62-7. What's that stuff about only being as good as your last game?

## GONE



# THE BEST



Shannon Sharpe

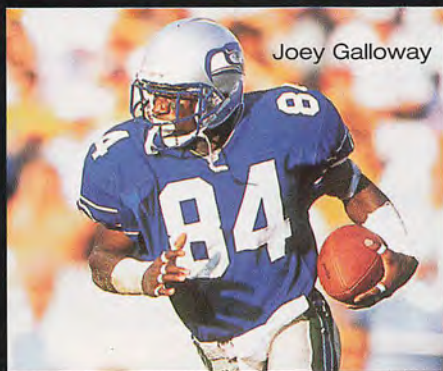
**Jon Runyan, offensive tackle, from Tennessee to Philadelphia:** After years of trying, the Eagles have an offensive line, just in time to protect young Donovan McNabb.

**Randall Godfrey, linebacker, from Dallas to Tennessee:** Just what Jeff Fisher ordered to solidify the middle of a pretty good defense.

**Bruce Smith, defensive end, from Buffalo to Washington:** He'll bring it for at least one more season, just for old time's sake.

**Shannon Sharpe, tight end, from Denver to Baltimore:** Brian Billick knows how to make receivers happy. Sharpe can return the favor.

# FREE-AGENT MOVES



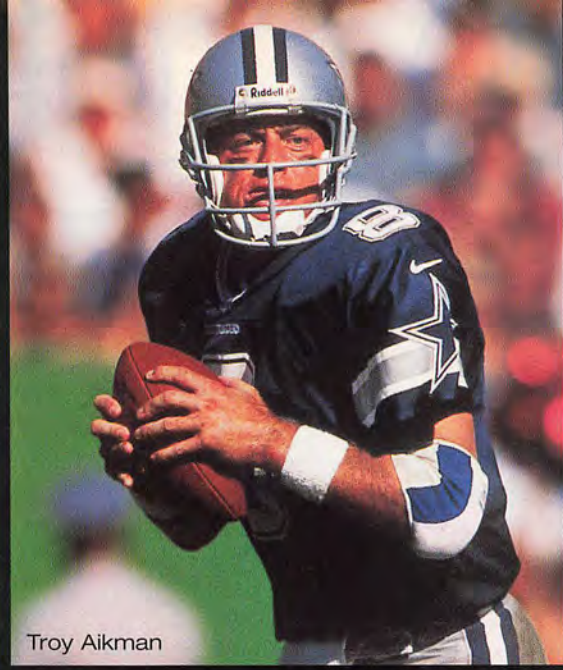
Joey Galloway

**Joey Galloway, wide receiver, from Seattle to Dallas:** The Cowboys not only paid him a \$12.5 million signing bonus as part of a \$42 million deal, they had to give up two first-round draft choices. He's good, but if he were that good, don't you think the Seahawks would have improved instead of regressed after he rejoined them last season?

**James Stewart, running back, from Jacksonville to Detroit:** The Lions are desperate to replace Barry Sanders, but a \$25 million deal to a backup is ridiculous.

# THE WORST

# PLAYERS



Troy Aikman

# ON THE BUBBLE

**Kordell Stewart, quarterback, Pittsburgh Steelers:** It's time for Slash to become a Hyphen, as in make-or-break. Kevin Gilbride is the first coordinator to get two years in a row with him, so maybe that will help.

**Kerry Collins, quarterback, New York Giants:** It's his ball now. Either Jim Fassel shows him what to do with it or they both fade to black.

**Mark Brunell, quarterback, Jacksonville Jaguars:** He disappeared in the playoffs. Maybe it was injury. Maybe it was Jevon Kearse. Maybe it was Tom Coughlin. Maybe the excuses are waning.

**Terry Glenn, receiver, New England Patriots:** Can Bill Belichick coax all the potential that lurks somewhere deep inside this talent?

**Stephen Davis, running back, Washington Redskins:** Davis had a breakthrough season, leading the league in touchdowns with 17 and the NFC in rushing. He earned a ton of respect and also earned the burden of proving he can do it again.

**Corey Dillon, running back, and Carl Pickens, receiver, Cincinnati Bengals:** They claim they want to get out of town because the Bengals don't win.

Somebody needs to explain to them that winning depends an awful lot on running backs and receivers.

**Terrell Davis and Jamal Anderson:** The two injured running backs of the Denver Broncos and Atlanta Falcons, respectively, must show their knees are mended before their teams can be fixed.

**Vinny Testaverde, quarterback, New York Jets:** With Bill Parcells gone, Vinny must come back strong to give the Jets a chance.

**Troy Aikman, quarterback, Dallas Cowboys:** He didn't like Chan Gailey's offense much better than he liked Barry Switzer. How about Joey Galloway's offense?

**Jon Kitna, quarterback, Seattle Seahawks:** He looked like he had Mike Holmgren figured out part of the time. He's got to do it all of the time.

**Elvis Grbac, quarterback, Kansas City Chiefs:** He's Kansas City's story and the Chiefs are sticking to it.

**Rob Johnson, quarterback, Buffalo Bills:** The Bills know he's taller than Doug Flutie and think he's better.

**Ryan Leaf, quarterback, San Diego Chargers:** Is he still in the league? San Diego needs to find out soon.



# 2000 NFL



## DOMESWEET DOME

The Rams became the first domed team to win a Super Bowl. They did it after winning only nine games the previous two years. Better keep an eye on the New Orleans Saints.

## IS THIS NUTS?

Scouts and coaches wary and weary of checking out the character of so many NFL prospects have a new problem on their hands. A kicker, Oakland's Sebastian Janikowski, nurtured a reputation as a party animal at Florida State and was arrested for bribing a cop to try to keep a friend out of trouble. Kickers drive teams crazy even when they are considered normal. All Garo Yepremian did was attempt a pass and sell ties. All Scott Norwood ever did was miss one big one. Now teams have to worry about curfews for these guys.

Sebastian Janikowski



# THE YOUNG AND THE STRONG

**There were 34 new players selected for the Pro Bowl last season, an unusual turnover of top talent. Call it football's acknowledgement of the new millennium. The following players head the list of the stars of tomorrow:**

**Jevon Kearse:** Scouts thought he was too undersized, too much of a 'tweener without a position. Those scouts better join the 21st century.

**Edgerrin James:** It wasn't the running. It wasn't the catching. It was the toughness that impressed Peyton Manning the most. He looks physically and mentally built to last.

**Kurt Warner:** Flash in the pan? Not with that quick arm. Not with that accuracy. Not with that unselfishness. Like he said all along, he knows how to play the game.

**Jimmy Smith:** Nobody caught more passes. Randy Moss might be more spectacular. Marvin Harrison had more yards. Keyshawn Johnson and Cris Carter and Tim Brown might be more famous. Who's better?

**Muhsin Muhammad:** Maybe Carolina's tough receiver, now that he's healthy.

**Marcus Robinson:** Maybe Chicago's young receiver, now that he's figured it out. He didn't make the Pro Bowl last year, but there's plenty of time for that.

**Torry Holt:** Maybe St. Louis' forgotten receiver, an unsung force as a rookie.

**Ricky Williams:** Mike Ditka has only one thing to say about his former bride: "Wait until he plays a whole season healthy." But will it be in New Orleans?

**Donnie Abraham:** Enough about Deion Sanders. There are new young cornerbacks in town—Chris McAlister, Charles Woodson, Champ Bailey, Mike McKenzie, Shawn Springs, Sam Madison and Aaron Beasley.

**Orlando Pace:** He's finally living up to his reputation as a premier left tackle, the reason the Rams traded up to get him.

**Walter Jones:** The Seahawks got Jones the same year the Rams got Pace (1997). They love him for good reason.

**Peyton Manning:** With Dan Marino following John Elway out the door,

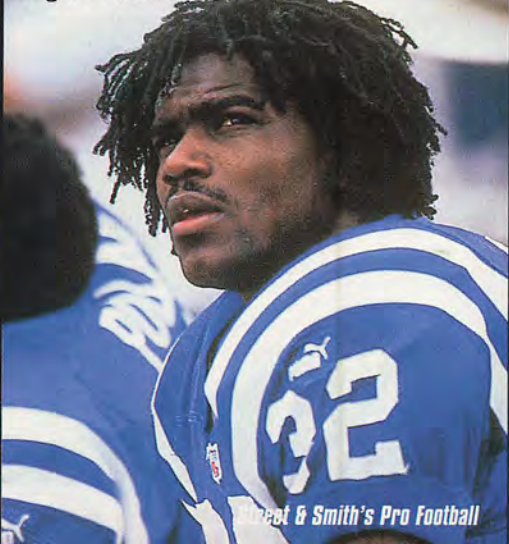
Manning is best qualified to take up the quarterback slack.

**Tony Gonzalez:** Tight ends are getting ignored in many offenses that favor three and four wide receivers. But Gonzalez is a deep threat. San Diego's Freddie Jones and Oakland's Rickey Dudley make the AFC West a haven for young tight ends.

**Trevor Pryce:** Denver's defensive tackle had more sacks than Warren Sapp.

**Brian Dawkins:** Philadelphia's free safety came into his own on a young team.

Edgerrin James





# FREE-AGENT FOLLIES



Mitch Berger

**The Minnesota Vikings** couldn't afford to keep Pro Bowl offensive linemen Randall McDaniel and Jeff Christy. They didn't want to afford quarterbacks Randall Cunningham or Jeff George anymore. The guy they wanted most last offseason was punter-kickoff man Mitch Berger, and they paid him \$6 million over five years to stay. Does that give you a clue to where the Vikings are headed?

**The Tennessee Titans** signed Fred Miller from the St. Louis Rams to play right tackle after losing Jon Runyan to the Philadelphia Eagles. Miller's most memorable game of last season was against the Titans. He was whistled six times for false starts and twice for holding. Jevon Kearse terrorized him. Miller couldn't beat him, but is happy to join him, especially for \$24 million over six years.

**The Pittsburgh Steelers** signed free agent Kimo von Oelhoffen to start either at nose tackle or defensive end. He came from Cincinnati, where he was beaten out by Oliver Gibson, who was second string in Pittsburgh before he was signed last year by Cincinnati. That means the Steelers are starting a backup to one of their own former backups. This is progress?

Some players become great without making the kind of splash that routinely gets them on SportsCenter. Following is a list of the best players you maybe don't hear about every week:

**Derrick Brooks:** Nobody plays outside linebacker better than this fifth-year Tampa Bay Buccaneer.

**Mark Fields:** Guess which team? Guess which position? If you said New Orleans and outside linebacker, you must have taken that bag off your head.

**Larry Allen:** John Madden talks constantly about him, because he's the best offensive lineman in the game. The Cowboys like him at guard, need him at tackle, and can rely on him for either.

**Robert Griffith:** How the Minnesota Vikings' strong safety failed to make the Pro Bowl is a mystery to some, a travesty to such astute personnel experts as Green Bay General Manager Ron Wolf.

**Kevin Carter:** He led the league in sacks, and has quietly been a favorite with scouts since the Rams made him their No. 1 draft pick in 1995.

## THE BEST



Kevin Carter

Warren Sapp



**Marshall Faulk:** His unprecedented season in total yardage stamped him as the best all-around back in the game. He also was the star of stars for the Rams, quarterback Kurt Warner notwithstanding. In six years Faulk has played only once on Monday night. This season you'll see more of him. You know the most amazing thing about his record 2,429 combined yards? He's only 27 years old.

**Eddie George:** You've heard of him. Then you saw him in the Super Bowl. He carries the Titans and only got a taste of glory last year. Watch out above.

**Randy Moss:** If it's not already too late for the Vikings, it's up to Moss to take his game to another level and carry his team with him.

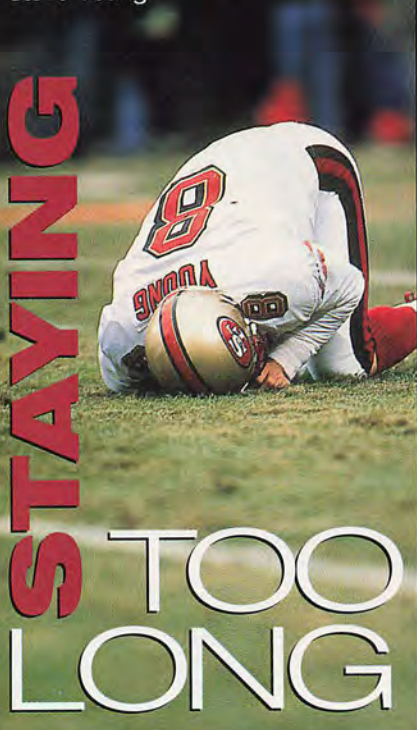
**Brett Favre:** He turned 30 and failed to throw 30 touchdown passes for the first time since 1993. But if the Packers are to bounce back, Favre is the launching pad.

**Steve McNair:** He does more than hand off to George. He also takes as many hits. He's got to pass better for Titans to win a Super Bowl.

**Warren Sapp:** The Buccaneers are still trying to prove they can win with defense, which starts in the middle with Sapp.

## VALUABLE

Steve Young



**Jerry Rice:** Hard to blame these guys for hanging on. The money's good and what else are they going to do? But they are only prolonging their Hall-of-Fame vote.

**Deion Sanders:** As long as he can keep convincing baseball owners and football owners to write the checks, he's going to cash them. Talk about running on fumes.

**Steve Young:** All those blows to the head haven't knocked any sense into him. The only thing left for him to accomplish is amnesia.

**Thurman Thomas:** The Dolphins think he's an upgrade. That's how desperate they are in Miami, former home of Cecil Collins.

**Randall McDaniel:** He goes from the Vikings to the Bucs, where he won't have to deal with Warren Sapp and Brad Culpepper.

**Warren Moon:** Is he still playing? He says he is. He says he still can throw it. He's trying to catch George Blanda.



# IT'S THE END OF AN ERA FOR...

# THE CONTROL

The days of handing over dictatorial control to NFL coaches may be losing out in favor of an increasingly proven system of checks and balances.

by Larry Felser *Buffalo News*

— analysis —

**O**ne after another they went down. Bill Parcells retired. Jimmy Johnson retired. Mike Ditka was fired and said he'd never coach again. Two days after his Super Bowl victory, Dick Vermeil quit while he was on the very top because he had no more pro football worlds to conquer.

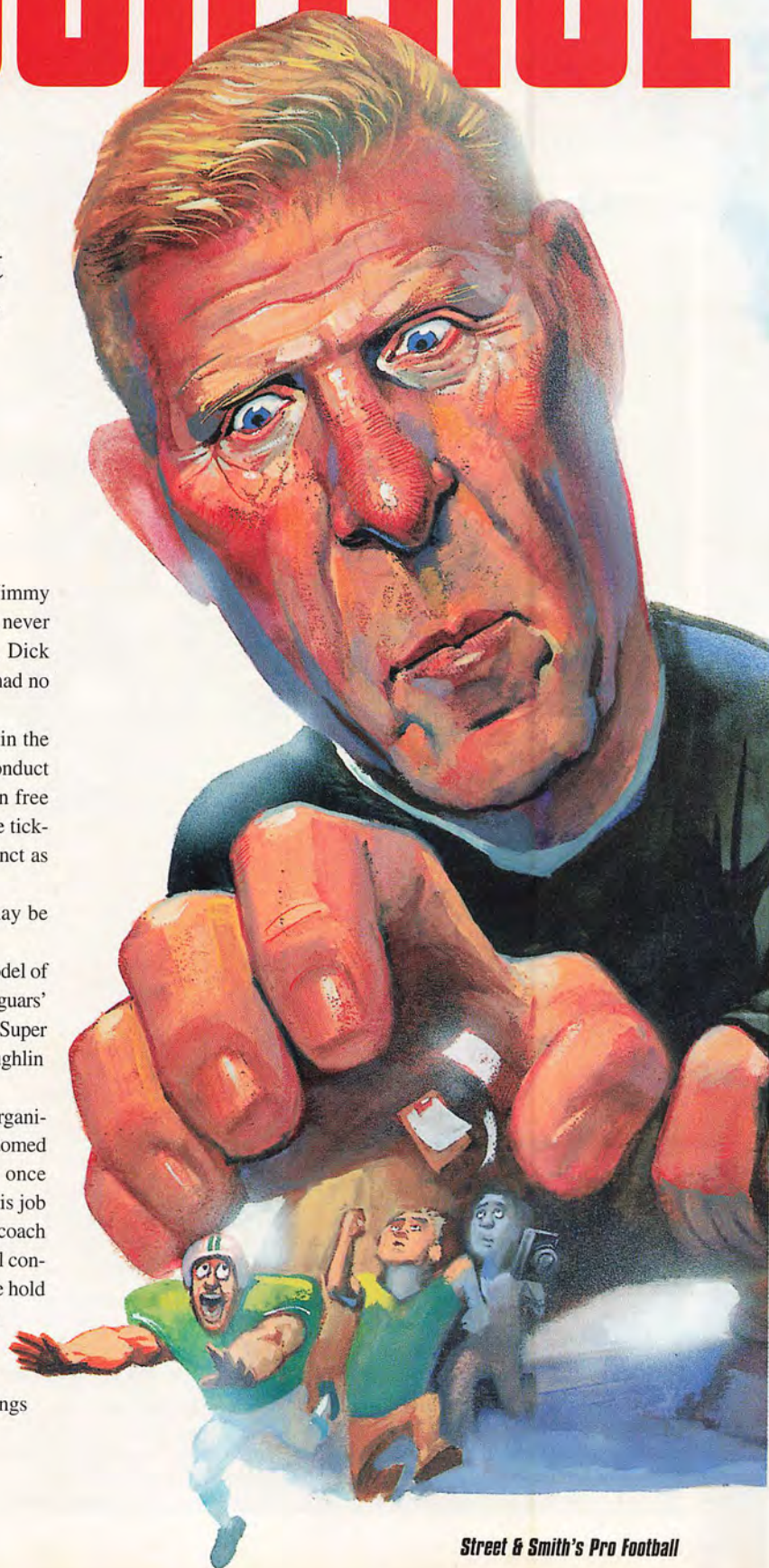
Is this the beginning of the end for control-freak coaches in the NFL? Are coaches who demanded and received the power to conduct the college draft, deal with agents, make the final decision on free agents, supervise the salary cap and terrorize everyone from the ticket director to the public relations department becoming as extinct as the woolly mammoth?

Judging by what happened at the end of last season, it may be the trend.

Consider the NFL's Final Four. The Tennessee Titans, the model of a chain-of-command organization, defeated Jacksonville on the Jaguars' home field for the second time in the season to qualify for the first Super Bowl in the 40-year history of the franchise. The losers' Tom Coughlin is the model for a-finger-in-everyone's-bowl-of-soup control.

The Tampa Bay Buccaneers, another chain-of-command organization, scared the wits out of the favored St. Louis Rams in their domed home before losing in the NFC championship game. Then, once Vermeil had captured his elusive Lombardi Trophy, he passed his job onto Mike Martz, the offensive coordinator. Martz, never a head coach on any level, didn't have the leverage to ask for anything near full control, even if he wanted to. For that matter, Vermeil had relaxed the hold to which he was accustomed on the entire football product going back to his days with the Philadelphia Eagles. In St. Louis he delegated authority to personnel chief Charlie Arney and other department heads while keeping his nose out of most other things except coaching.

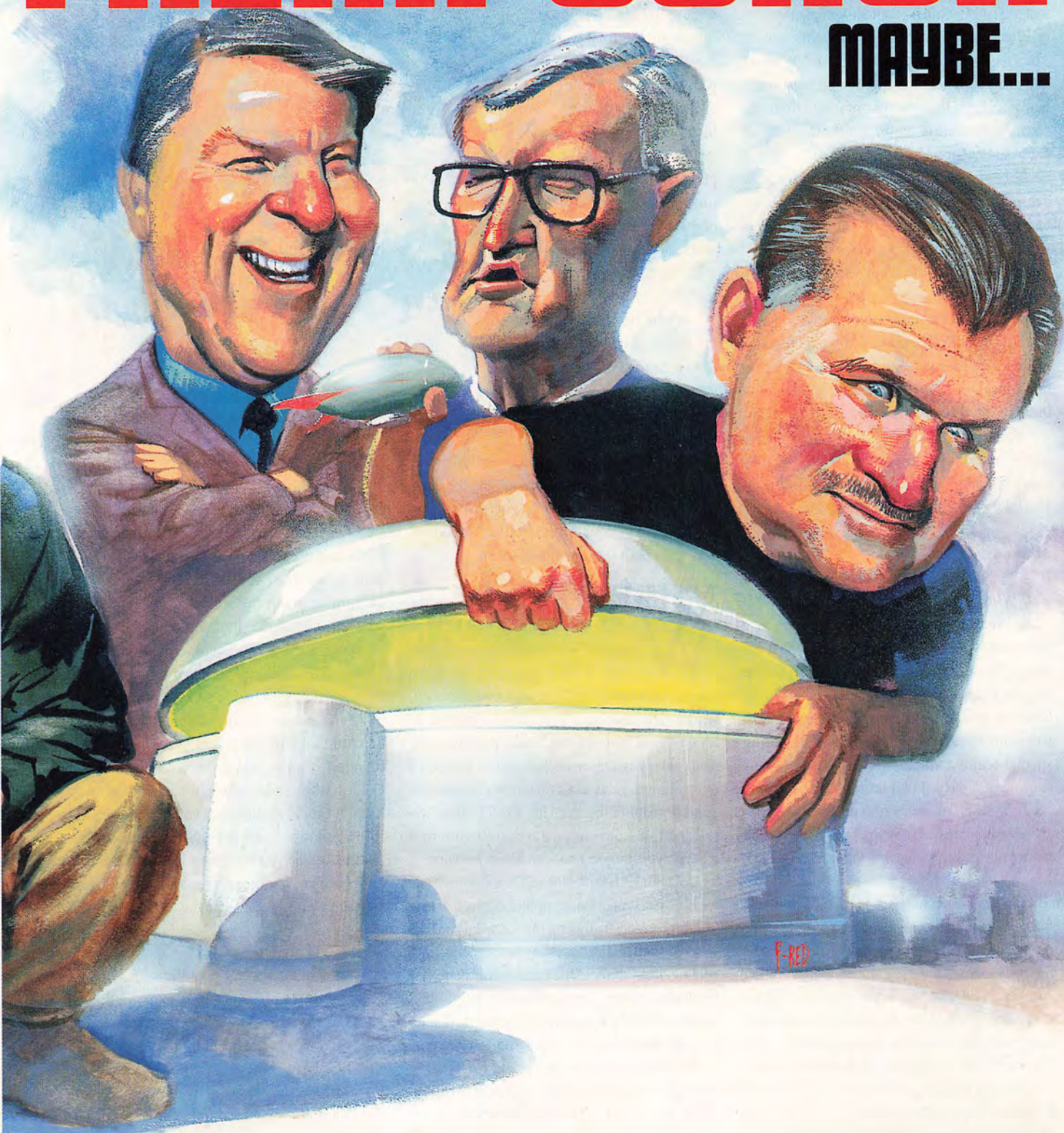
ILLUSTRATIONS BY FRED HARPER





# FREAK COACH

MAYBE...





## NO COACH IS AN OASIS

The changes make great sense. The reason is that the NFL has become such a year-round corporate enterprise that no man can make all the decisions and have all of them come out favorably. For the last seven years, as soon as the season ends, the new one begins. Days after the last Super Bowl, even the Rams and Titans had to decide which players would stay and which ones would have to go so that payrolls would be kept under the mandatory salary cap, \$62.18 million for this season. The free-agent signings began, which meant that many teams started auditioning prospective new members. In the midst of the auditions, the scouting combine testing, the annual "meat market in Indianapolis," was conducted.

Since many of the top college prospects decline to work out at Indianapolis, coaches and scouts go on the road to witness individual workouts and time the players. Entire scouting staffs convene at the team's headquarters to evaluate every prospect, which takes weeks. Then there are the minute preparations for the April draft. Make a major mistake on that day and it could haunt a team for years. Days after the draft, the mini-camps begin and some of them never seem to end.

Some coaches, especially the control freaks, seldom get to draw a breath. We may never see another coach work into his 70s, as Marv Levy did for the Buffalo Bills.

## TOO BIG TUNA

That's why Parcells, who has a history of heart trouble, retired at 57 after what may have been his finest season as a pure coach. In the opening game he lost his starting quarterback, Vinny Testaverde, for the season. Later, one of his top receivers, Wayne Chrebet, was lost for a lengthy period and so were other starters. Finally, after installing special-teams commando Ray Lucas as his starting quarterback, he nurtured the Jets into winning seven of their last nine games.

It was uncharacteristic of Parcells to quit before maneuvering the Jets into a Super Bowl, where New York might have ended up last season had Testaverde not been injured. That would have been unprecedented, a coach leading three different teams into a Super Bowl. Parcells knew the difficulty of that assignment. When Jimmy Johnson, who won two Super Bowls in Dallas, was hired to coach the Dolphins, Parcells sent word to him through a mutual friend: "Tell Jimmy it's very tough the second time around."

Parcells might have made it if he had confined himself to just being the head coach. But he was such a micro-manager that he wouldn't

## IN SEATTLE, MIKE HOLMGREN IS DETERMINED THAT HE CAN ESTABLISH A REPUTATION FOR HIMSELF AS A MAN FOR ALL TASKS.

even allow his assistant coaches to speak with the media. His insistence on having the final word on the drafting was an example of Parcells working against himself. During his stay with the Jets, he drafted 13 defensive players. The only full-time starter he got out of that lot was defensive tackle Jason Ferguson, a seventh-round pick in 1997.

When he coached the Giants, whom he led to two Super Bowl victories, it always rankled him that the organization abided by a system of checks and balances, with General Manager George Young and his scouts running the draft. Yet that chain of command, with skilled people running various aspects of the operation, was what built those winning teams.

## J.J.'S FAILINGS

When Jimmy Johnson was hired to replace Don Shula, the winningest coach in NFL history, he predicted that his Dolphins would be an immediate contender. His four-year record was inferior to Shula's final four seasons. Shula won two division championships in his last stretch. Johnson's Dolphins never did win a title of any sort despite yearly prophecies that he would. Johnson resigned 48 hours after the humiliation of a 62-7 playoff loss to Jacksonville in January.

Why did J.J. fail? One of the major reasons was his insistence on complete control. In the four college drafts that he ran for Miami, there were 32 draft slots affected by his wheeling and dealing, most of them the result of his penchant for drafting down. The result was mostly sound and fury, with little impact on the product. The most glaring failure of all might have been his decision to draft down and select Mississippi running back John Avery in the first round, rather than move up to draft Randy Moss for quarterback Dan Marino, who was desperately



in need of a feature receiver.

When Johnson assumed command of the Dolphins he had no experience with outright free agency. Asked if he expected to sign some big-name players, Johnson replied, "I don't want a bunch of veterans around who have an opinion about the way I coach. I'd rather stay with the draft." In the absence of "name veterans," he opted for vulnerable ones like Lawrence Phillips, the troubled running back; Tony Martin, who had to sweat out his federal money-laundering charge in a court case before he could take the field last year; and much-traveled running back Cecil "The Diesel" Collins, who Johnson thought might be the next Emmitt Smith. Phillips was cut after a series of rules violations and off-the-field incidents. Collins' career ended when he was arrested on a burglary charge. A checks-and-balances system might have avoided those costly errors.

## DENNIS THE MENACE?

The latest coach to put himself in jeopardy as a result of misuse of control is Dennis Green of Minnesota. Weeks after General Manager Jeff Diamond was named NFL Executive of the Year for his work with the Vikings in 1998, Green won a power struggle and Diamond was eased out of the organization. Diamond wasn't out of work long. He was



hired as club president of the Tennessee Titans and ended up in the Super Bowl.

Green finished the '98 season one overtime period away from the Super Bowl, losing to Atlanta in his home Metrodome. The next spring, though the Vikings were in serious need of cornerbacks, a more powerful Green spent the first of his two first-round draft choices on Central Florida quarterback Daunte Culpepper, even though he had Cunningham and was about to acquire Jeff George. The second selection he spent on Dimitrius Underwood, the troubled Michigan State defensive end whom the Spartan coaches had advised Green against drafting because of his erratic behavior.

Culpepper didn't play at all last year. Underwood never reported to the Vikings and is now out of football. St. Louis quarterback Kurt Warner riddled Minnesota's needy secondary for 49 points in the NFC playoffs. After the season the Vikings' salary cap had boiled over so much that Green had to cut two Pro Bowl offensive linemen, center Jeff Christy and guard Randall McDaniel. Both signed with Tampa Bay, defending champions of Minnesota's own division, the NFC Central.

**COUGHLIN IS AS RIGID AND HARD-NOSED AS EVER, REFUSING TO ALLOW HIS ASSISTANTS TO TALK TO THE MEDIA.**

## IRON [HEADED] MIKE

Why, when they see what potential carnage may come from giving complete control of a team to one man, do owners keep bestowing it? The answer seems obvious: Many of them don't know what they're doing. That's what happened to Tom Benson, owner of the New Orleans Saints, when he hired Mike Ditka in 1997. Ditka's reputation centered around his work as head coach of the Chicago Bears of the 1980s, one of the strongest teams in NFL history when they demolished New England, 46-10, in Super Bowl XX. But Ditka was backed up by a superb staff—Buddy Ryan running the defense, Bill Tobin in charge of personnel and Jerry Vainisi overseeing things in the front office.

There had been a five-year span since Ditka was fired by the Bears and hired by the Saints in 1997. He had been involved in television and had an association with legal gambling in Mississippi and various other things. As a football honcho he had become a caricature of his former self. He traded for quarterback Heath Shuler, a huge flop in Washington and a fizzle in New Orleans. He drafted quarterback Danny Wuerffel, the Heisman Trophy winner from Florida who most pro scouts felt lacked the skills necessary to make it in the NFL. They were right. He signed Billy Joe Hobert after the Bills dropped him in midseason 1997 when he confessed he hadn't studied his playbook for a game in which he had to enter in place of the injured starter. The Ditka fiasco culminated in the 1999 draft when he traded

all eight of his draft choices, including Nos. 1 and 3 this year, for the right to select running back Ricky Williams, another Heisman winner. Williams got hurt, there were insufficient reserves and Ditka got fired.

Benson learned

his lesson. To replace Ditka he hired Jim Haslett, Pittsburgh's defensive coordinator, as head coach and Randy Mueller as general manager with power. Mueller signed seven free agents by March 1.

Some owners don't learn from the past. When Parcells coached New England, his stay ended acrimoniously, with owner Bob Kraft relieving him of his final say on the draft and then Parcells jumping to the Jets in a move that involved lawyers and reparations. In the last year of Parcells' tenure with the Patriots, he rehired Bill Belichick as his defensive guru, a position Belichick had held on the Super Bowl champion Giants. Between his time with the Giants and the Pats, Belichick spent five turbulent years as head coach of the Cleveland Browns before they moved to Baltimore. He had one winning season, 11-5 in 1994, but that record was reversed to 5-11 the next year, after which he was fired. Not only did Belichick squander his top draft choices on the likes of Craig Powell, Tommy Vardell and Antonio Langham, he created an atmosphere of paranoia and distrust.

Nevertheless, in Belichick's one season as an assistant in New England, Kraft became smitten with him. Belichick became entangled in a mess of his own making after Parcells' resignation from the Jets, refusing to serve as head coach after the Jets promoted him, according to a price agreement. Kraft paid a ransom of his No. 1 draft choice to get him free of New York to sign with the Patriots.

## LAST OF A DYING BREED?

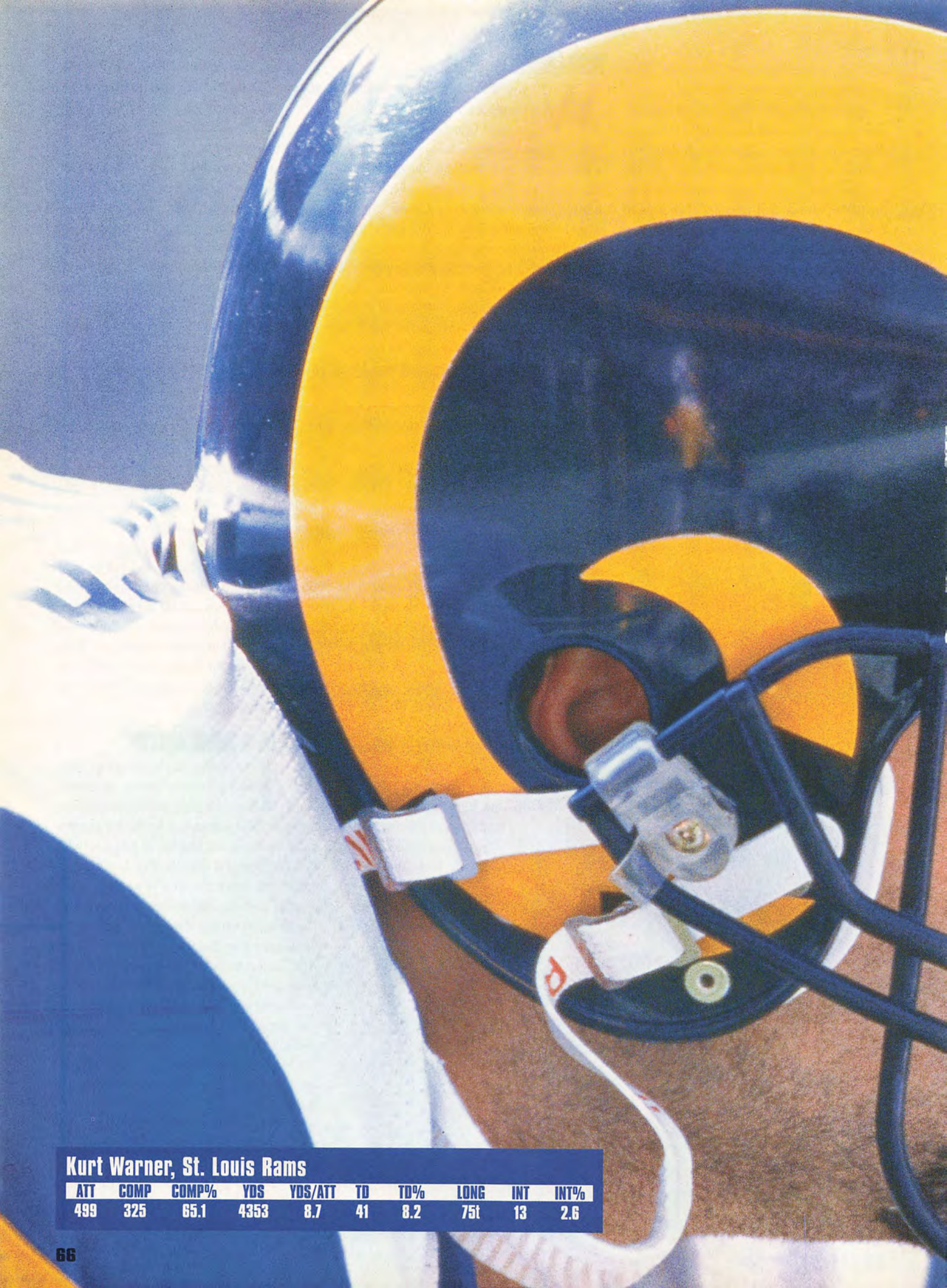
More owners than Kraft still go along with the control freaks. In Seattle, Mike Holmgren is determined that he can establish a reputation for himself as a man for all tasks now that he's free of personnel whiz Ron Wolf, the GM in Green Bay. In Pittsburgh, coach Bill Cowher won a struggle with the Steelers' well-regarded director of football, Tom Donahoe, so Donahoe resigned. In Jacksonville, the Jaguars have had the best personnel in the AFC for two years but couldn't redeem it for a Super Bowl appearance. Coughlin is as rigid and hard-nosed as ever. He once worked for Parcells and, like the Tuna, refuses to allow his assistants to talk to the media.

Meanwhile, some of the most successful and emerging teams win with organization men. Buffalo just enjoyed its 10th winning season since 1988, all but one with double-digit victories. Indianapolis built a division champion under the team of Bill Polian and coach Jim Mora. Green Bay, Tennessee and Tampa Bay are organizations devoid of the cult of personality.

There is a lesson there.



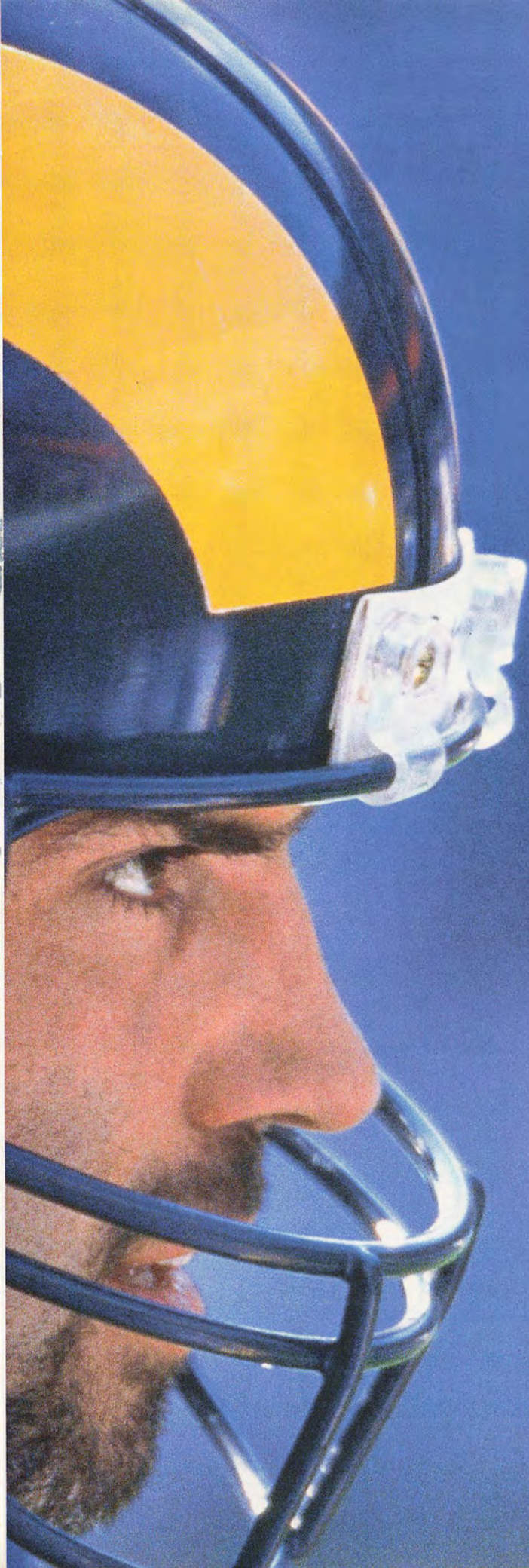




**Kurt Warner, St. Louis Rams**

ATT	COMP	COMP%	YDS	YDS/ATT	TD	TD%	LONG	INT	INT%
499	325	65.1	4353	8.7	41	8.2	75t	13	2.6





# The Great NFL QB Search

AS COLLEGES CONTINUE TO STRUGGLE TO DEVELOP THE MODERN-DAY NFL QUARTERBACK, GENERAL MANAGERS ARE TURNING TO ALTERNATIVE, POST-GRADUATE SOURCES SUCH AS THE ARENA LEAGUE AND NFL EUROPE SEARCHING FOR POTENTIAL AND THE NEXT KURT WARNER.

By Larry Felser / Buffalo News



**L**ate in February, after the great salary-cap purge of fading NFL superstars, the Miami Dolphins, having shown Dan Marino the door, signed Jay Fiedler as a free-agent quarterback. Jay Fiedler replacing Dan Marino in the Dolphins' huddle? Say it isn't so.

It required 47 pages in Miami's 1999 media guide to recite Marino's accomplishments.

Fiedler's could have been listed on a Post-it note.

A week later, the Pittsburgh Steelers, having "temporarily" converted their highly paid quarterback, Kordell Stewart, to wide receiver, signed journeyman Kent Graham as a free agent. It was clear that Graham, twice dropped by the Giants and once by Arizona, was seen as a potential starting quarterback for the Steelers.

At one time, not so long ago, these decisions would have seemed strange. Not any longer. It is a rare quarterback who emerges from college football polished and ready for the pros these days. The classic cases such as Marino, John Elway, Jim Kelly, Troy Aikman and Boomer Esiason are few and far between. An NFL team now takes its starting quarterback where it may find him. Those include some unorthodox places.

### WARNER EMERGES FROM THE 'ARENA'

**L**ast season the most unorthodox was the Arena Football League. The Iowa Barnstormers provided the breeding ground for the surprise choice of Most Valuable Player in the NFL, Kurt Warner of the Super Bowl champion St. Louis Rams. Warner's story is now part of pro football lore. After bouncing around a couple of NFL camps when he came out of Northern Iowa University as an undrafted free agent, Warner got to play for the Barnstormers when he wasn't stocking groceries for a local store. He might have stocked the linguini where the egg noodles were supposed to go, but as a quarterback he threw for 183 touchdowns over three seasons. Impressed by those numbers, the Rams

### Brad Johnson, Washington Redskins

ATT	COMP	COMP%	YDS	YDS/ATT	TD	TD%	LONG	INT	INT%
519	316	60.9	4005	7.7	24	4.6	65t	13	2.5



**"I needed to make mistakes, to fail, to come back from failure. I needed to find out what makes a quarterback."**



# In the NFL Europe championship game Jon Kitna passed for 401 yards and won the Most Valuable Player Award.



**Jon Kitna, Seattle Seahawks**

ATT	COMP	COMP%	YDS	YDS/ATT	TD	TD%	LONG	INT	INT%
495	270	54.5	3346	6.8	23	4.6	51	16	3.2

signed him and sent him to Amsterdam of NFL Europe for further honing. He led the league in every important passing category. When he reported to St. Louis' training camp, events quickly overtook him. Trent Green, whom the Rams had signed away from Washington for serious free-agent money, was hurt before he got to play a game.

"We'll go with Kurt Warner," said coach Dick Vermeil. It was stiff-upper-lip talk. Little did Vermeil know what awaited him.

In his first three starts Warner threw for nine touchdowns, something no NFL quarterback had ever done. The Rams, who had the worst record in the league for the '90s as the season began, were in first place in the NFC West. They stayed there right to the end. By the time he was finished with the regular season, Warner had thrown for 41 touchdowns, more

than half of them in the second half. He also completed 69 percent of the passes he launched in the last two quarters. His 109.2 passing-efficiency rating led the league by a wide margin; his fourth-quarter number was a staggering 137.3.

Is it any surprise that any coach in need of a quarterback is now telling his scouts, "Go find us the next Kurt Warner?"

Yes, the saga of Kurt Warner is a sports Cinderella story, but it's also a graphic illustration of the NFL of the new millennium, where a team may win just four games in one season and then wins the Super Bowl the next. That's what St. Louis did.

## LOOKING ACROSS THE ATLANTIC

**T**here are no illusions about the new millennium quarterbacks. Many of them arrive bearing warts. Brad

Johnson started for the Florida State basketball team but not the football team, where he was a backup to Casey Weldon, now his backup with the Washington Redskins. Minnesota selected Johnson in the ninth round of the 1992 college draft. He was the 14th quarterback taken and the reason was strictly potential. Johnson had no illusions about the odds against him. To shorten them, he requested that the Vikings send him to play in NFL Europe. "I needed to make mistakes, to fail, to come back from failure," he reasoned. "I needed to find out what makes a quarterback."

He found out. In 1998 he finally won the Vikings' starting job outright, along with a big contract. Then he got hurt and watched Randall Cunningham steer Minnesota into the NFC championship game and win the conference's Player of the Year Award. With Cunningham seemingly secure as the starter, the Vikings traded Johnson to Washington. He was found gold for the Redskins, leading them to a 443-point season and first place in the NFC East.

NFL Europe also spawned Jon Kitna, the quarterback for Seattle's AFC West champions. Kitna came out of little-known Central Washington University as an undrafted free agent in 1996, he was released in training camp, signed to the Seahawks' practice squad and assigned to the Barcelona Dragons in the European league. In the league championship game he passed for 401 yards and won the Most Valuable Player Award.

What convinced the Seahawks that he had a future in the NFL was his first start. It was in 1997 against Oakland and it didn't start well. The Raiders had what looked like a commanding 21-3 lead at halftime. Kitna rallied his team to win, 22-21. The Seahawks changed coaches last season, from Dennis Erickson to Mike Holmgren, but Holmgren was impressed enough with Kitna to keep him as the starter.

Beating the bushes, recycling, granting second, third and fourth chances have all become normal business practices in the NFL these days. The reason is that so many teams are in quarterback crises. Denver is two seasons removed from Elway's retirement, but coach Mike Shanahan hasn't firmly settled on a successor yet. His faith in young Brian



Griese is a sometime thing. Last year he brought in retread Bobby Brister to play ahead of Griese. When that didn't work, he signed Gus Frerotte, who is with his third team in three years.

A large percentage of the Dolphin public grew up thinking Marino was their team. Now he's gone and the fans are mighty upset about accepting an inferior substitute. The Baltimore Ravens had a strong defense and a building offense, but they went through three quarterbacks last year. The Minnesota salary cap made Cunningham expendable. Kordell Stewart may have been the wrong answer in Pittsburgh. Ryan Leaf's immaturity clouds San Diego's future. A series of concussions clouds what's left of Steve Young's future in San Francisco.

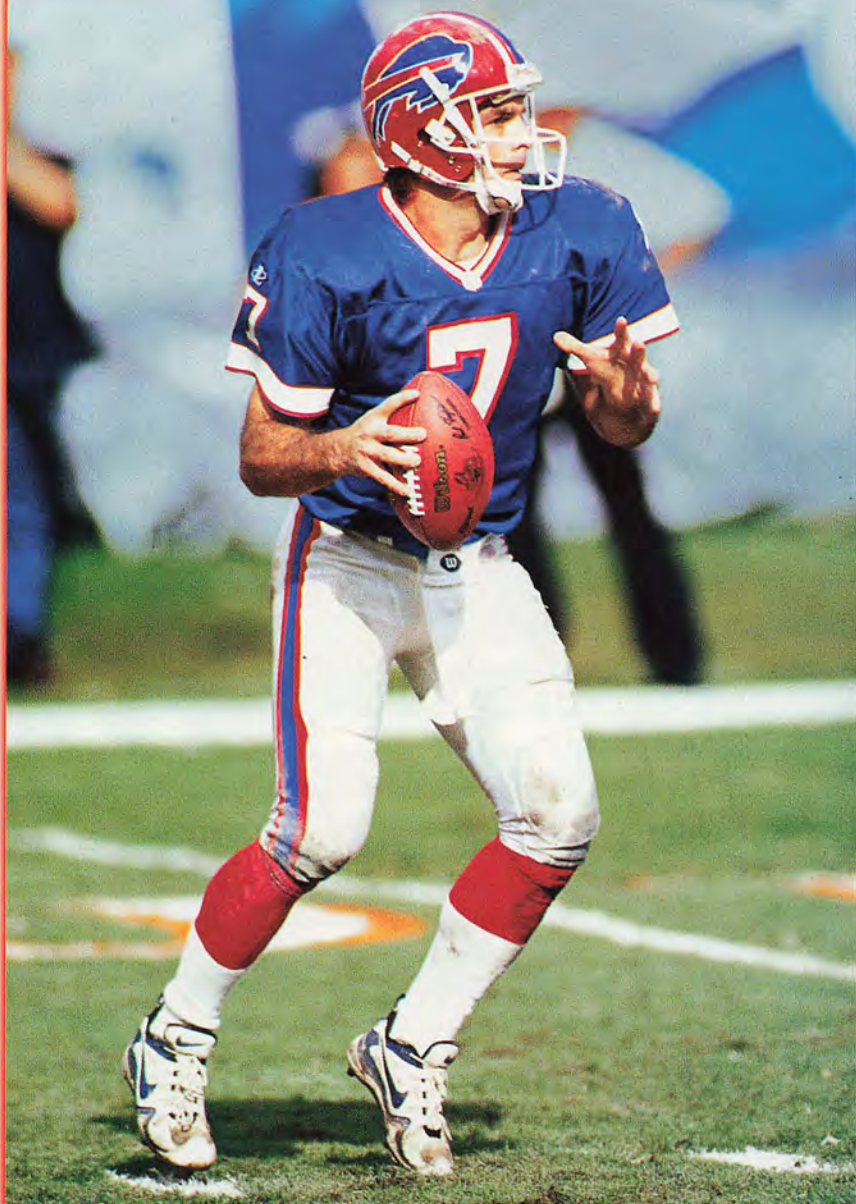
#### CANADIAN MOBILITY

**T**he job specifications for NFL quarterbacks have changed. The new millennium quarterback must possess some degree of mobility and athleticism. The concept of zone blitzing was the agent of change. Quarterbacks accustomed to standing in the passing pocket like statues have become virtually extinct. The more mobility and athleticism the better.

That's why Buffalo was willing to sign Doug Flutie out of Canada two years ago. Flutie hadn't grown any taller, but the style of NFL football had come almost full circle to fit his skills. The better defenses found antidotes to Flutie last season and he lost his job for the controversial playoff game against Tennessee. But even as a backup, he's still valuable coming off the bench because his style of play requires the preparation most teams can't afford to give to a No. 2 quarterback.

Flutie's success forced NFL personnel scouts to take a fresh look at Canadian Football League quarterbacks. It's different than assessing the Arena League or NFL Europe since the field is longer (110 yards) and wider and the rules are different (three downs instead of four). But to survive in Canada a quarterback must possess mobility. That is why Jeff Garcia was signed by San Francisco after leading Calgary to the Grey Cup championship and winning the league's MVP award. Garcia threw for 111 touchdowns in five years up north. As a 49er he started the last five games

## Flutie's success forced NFL personnel scouts to take a fresh look at Canadian Football League quarterbacks.



**Doug Flutie, Buffalo Bills**

ATT	COMP	COMP%	YDS	YDS/ATT	TD	TD%	LONG	INT	INT%
478	264	55.2	3171	6.6	19	4.0	54	16	3.3

of the season after Young's injuries kept the great star sidelined. The Niners won only four games, but two of them were under Garcia, who directed an offense that averaged 26 points in his starts.

#### OLD DOGS, NEW TRICKS

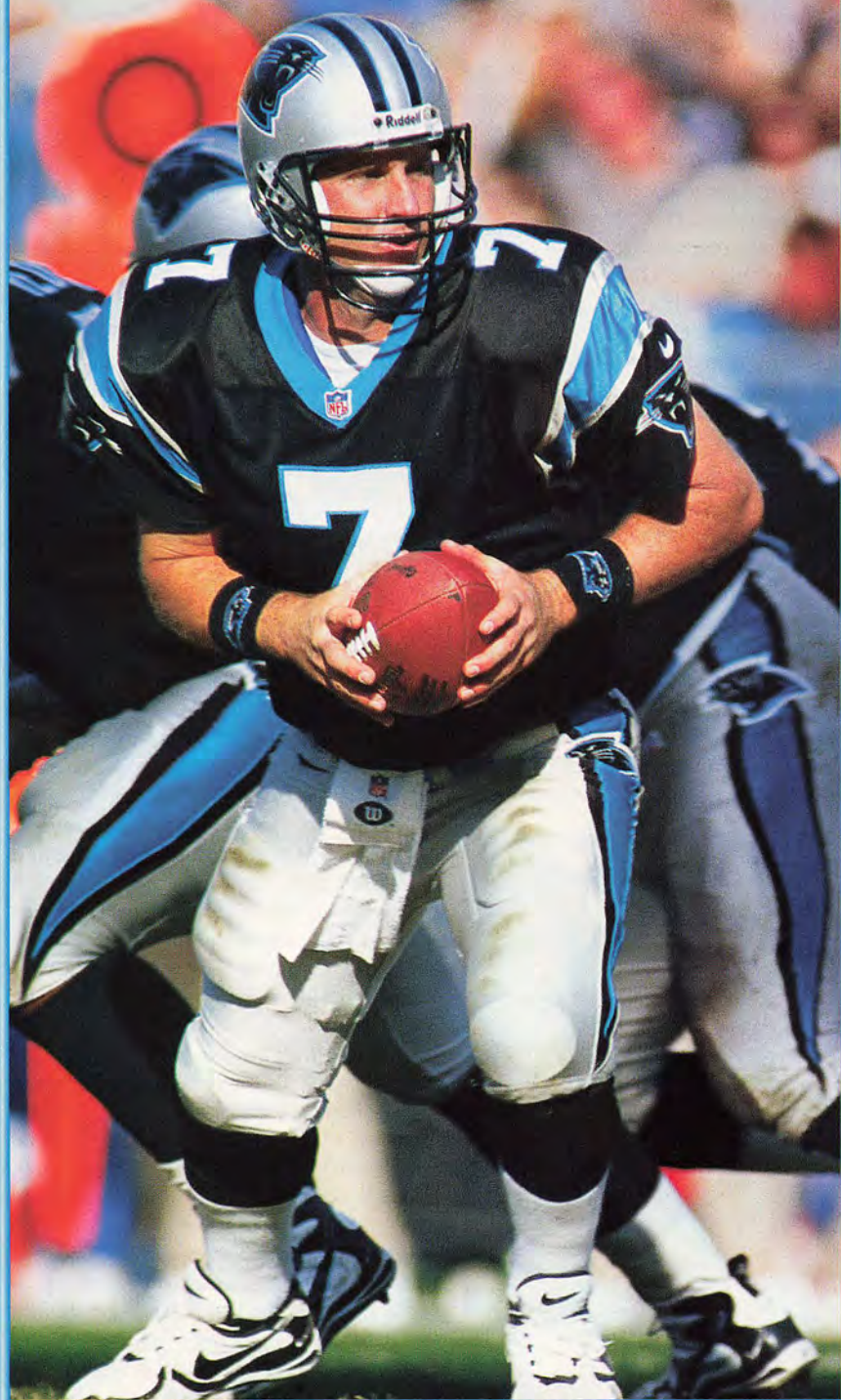
**T**he new specifications are also the reason Jeff Blake was the NFL's top free-agent quarterback last winter.



## Steve Beuerlein, Carolina Panthers

ATT	COMP	COMP%	YDS	YDS/ATT	TD	TD%	LONG	INT	INT%
571	343	60.1	4436	7.8	36	6.3	88t	15	2.6

**Beuerlein rewarded Seifert with his greatest season, leading the Panthers with 36 touchdown passes and 4,436 yards.**



New Orleans moved quickly to sign him, even though he had lost his job in Cincinnati to young Akili Smith. "I like his mobility and, while he lacks some height (at 6-feet), he has a strong arm," says Jim Haslett, the Saints' new coach who was familiar with Blake from his old days as Pittsburgh's defensive coordinator. "Remember that he threw 52 touchdowns in '95 and '96."

Sometimes quarterbacks equipped with the new specifications aren't available. When that happens teams aren't above recycling "statues" who aren't completely extinct. That's what happened in Carolina, where George Seifert took over the Panthers last season. Steve Beuerlein had been mostly a part-timer for 12 NFL seasons until he started the last 12 games of the '98 season for Dom Capers, who finished 4-12 and was eventually fired. Seifert took a careful look at the films and decided Beuerlein was the best he had.

Beuerlein rewarded Seifert with his greatest season, leading the Panthers with 36 touchdown passes and 4,436 yards. He made the Pro Bowl for the first time and ended up on the league's list of its top 20 all-time efficient passers. Most impressive of all was the Panthers won twice as many games as the year before and battled for a playoff spot until the final day. Beuerlein, never to be mistaken for a scrambler, even made it into the end zone for the first running touchdown of his career to beat Green Bay.

The Giants, searching for a quarterback ever since Phil Simms retired to the broadcast booth, went the recycle route when they signed Kerry Collins late during the 1998 season despite his being dropped by Carolina and New Orleans, as well as having an alcohol problem. The organization carefully monitored Collins' rehabilitation and didn't start him until after Thanksgiving. He rewarded them with spectacular performances in victories over the Jets and on the road against Buffalo.

There is new-millennium thinking by coaches to go with the new-style quarterback. Late last season Shaun King, a mere third-round draftee and, at 6 feet, short by NFL standards, assumed command of the team and steered it to within one controversial official's call of the Super Bowl. ■



# FANTASY RANKINGS

**EDGERRIN JAMES, MARSHALL FAULK AND A BEVY OF TOP BACKS WILL LEAD THIS YEAR'S FANTASY DRAFTS**

By Les Kovach

**Y**ou just can't make this stuff up. The 1999 NFL season reminded us that anything is possible. The question for fantasy owners is this: Will 2000 be anything like last year or will the clock strike midnight for the league's latest Cinderellas?



KURT WARNER

## Changing of the guard

For the NFL, 1999 represented a changing of the guard. Two teams that had never played in a Super Bowl produced one of the most exciting championship games in history, and 41 first-time honorees earned trips to the Pro Bowl. You can't ignore the league's newest studs when drafting your fantasy team, but wasting a first- or second-round draft pick on a flash-in-the-pan could ruin your season. It's as vital as ever to determine who's the real deal and who had a career year that he'll never repeat.

There's no better place to start than with the Super Bowl champion St. Louis Rams. Most Valuable Player Kurt Warner will feel the pressure more than anyone—and he won't duplicate last season's fairy-tale performance—but he is definitely the real deal. With so many weapons at his disposal, even an expected drop-off in production shouldn't stop him from being a top fantasy pick.

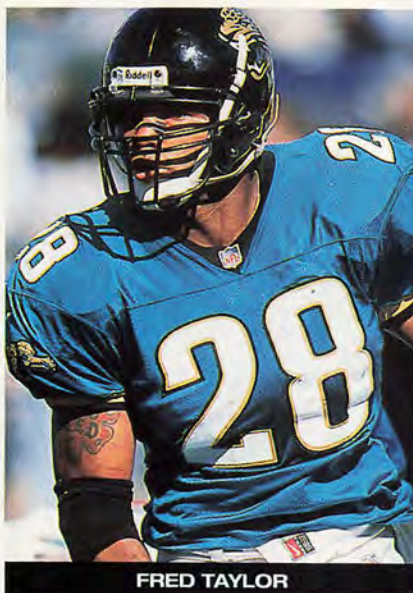
## Running backs lead the way

The best fantasy player in St. Louis, however, may be running back Marshall

Faulk. After leading the NFL with more than 2,200 total yards as a member of the Colts in 1998, he again finished No. 1 last season with more than 2,400 yards. The Rams' offense remains one of the league's most dangerous, and Faulk, not Warner, is St. Louis' most valuable player. If you play in a scoring-only league, Faulk's value drops some, but drafting him in yardage leagues is like getting a top back and a top receiver in one.

Two more running backs should round out this year's top overall fantasy picks: the man who replaced Faulk in Indianapolis, 1999 super rookie Edgerrin James, and 1998 rookie sensation Fred Taylor. James, after racking up more than 2,100 yards and 17 touchdowns in his first season, is a good bet for the No. 1 pick in many drafts. With Peyton Manning under center and Marvin Harrison at wide receiver, the Colts probably have the best skill-position players in the league, and possibly the core of the NFL's next dynasty.

A bad hamstring kept Jacksonville's Taylor from matching his rookie season's production, but he showed his explosiveness as he regained leg strength late in the year. Behind one of the league's best run-blocking lines,



FRED TAYLOR



EDGERRIN JAMES

Taylor should be good for at least 1,500 total yards and 15 touchdowns this season—if he stays healthy.

## Don't forget about these guys

Grabbing a fantasy workhorse in the first round of your draft may keep you in the running all season, but unless another player or two on your roster emerges down the stretch, you'll just be an also-ran. With so many new names—guys like Warner, James, Manning and Washington running back Stephen Davis—likely to go early, former top picks will slip, some further than they should. Denver's Terrell Davis and Atlanta's Jamal Anderson will both drop after injuries ended their seasons in '99. And a terrible year in Green Bay means Brett Favre, Dorsey Levens and Antonio Freeman will probably fall, too. Plenty of future fantasy first-rounders will be available in the second, third and even fourth rounds.

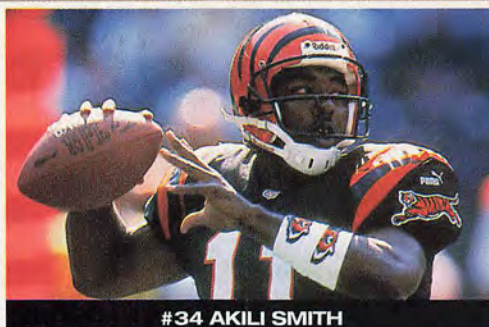
While a player is only as good as his last game, don't put too much weight on one year, good or bad. Consider his production over the last few seasons before deciding he is—or isn't—worth an early pick. And, as always, watch closely what develops in the preseason.



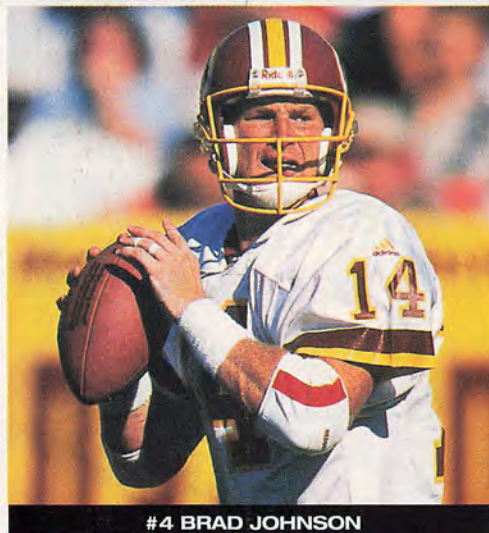
# Quarterbacks

Player	Team	
1 Kurt Warner	STL	Line lost some talent, but speed, weapons remain. However, last year's numbers are unrealistic.
2 Peyton Manning	IND	Twenty-six TD passes in each of first two years—and he's only getting better. 4,000 yards likely.
3 Brett Favre	GB	Last year was downside—22 TDs, 4,000 yards. You know the upside. And his thumb is healed.
4 Brad Johnson	WAS	Finally survived full season and joined the league's elite. Team improved in offseason, too.
5 Steve Beuerlein	CAR	Most underrated QB in NFL: 36 TDs, league's best 4,436 yards last year. Run game is concern.
6 Jon Kitna	SEA	Looked very good last year despite some poor games. Second year in system will help.
7 Rich Gannon	OAK	Started 16 games for first time last season and had career year. Don't expect better numbers.
8 Drew Bledsoe	NE	Belichick won't ask him to carry offense alone, but team needs to find a running game.
9 Mark Brunell	JAX	Injuries in last three seasons are concern. Has never thrown more than 20 touchdowns.
10 Rob Johnson	BUF	Has ability to stretch defenses with his arm, and he has the deep threats to do it.
11 Steve McNair	TEN	Continued to improve last season, but losing coordinator Les Steckel could slow development.
12 Vinny Testaverde	NYJ	Should be the same quarterback he was in '98, but will it be the same team?
13 Tony Banks	BAL	Came on strong in second half of season. Offense added key weapons in offseason.
14 Brian Griese	DEN	Developed confidence with experience, but how long will Mike Shanahan tolerate mistakes?
15 Jeff Blake	NO	Former Pro Bowler has ability, and team may finally have the offensive talent to compete.
16 Charlie Batch	DET	
17 Chris Chandler	ATL	
18 Troy Aikman	DAL	
19 Jake Plummer	AZ	
20 Jeff George	WAS	
21 Daunte Culpepper	MIN	
22 Elvis Grbac	KC	
23 Kerry Collins	NYG	
24 Tim Couch	CLE	
25 Bubby Brister	MIN	
26 Jim Harbaugh	SD	
27 Kordell Stewart	PIT	
28 Doug Flutie	BUF	
29 Cade McNown	CHI	
30 Jeff Garcia	SF	
31 Shaun King	TB	
32 Damon Huard	MIA	
33 Donovan McNabb	PHI	
34 Akili Smith	CIN	
35 Gus Frerotte	DET	
36 Randall Cunningham	FA	
37 Neil O'Donnell	TEN	
38 Trent Dilfer	BAL	
39 Ray Lucas	NYJ	
40 Jim Miller	CHI	
41 Scott Mitchell	CIN	
42 Jay Fiedler	MIA	
43 Kent Graham	PIT	
44 Eric Zeier	TB	
45 Matt Hasselbeck	GB	

\* = Rookie / FA = Free Agent



#34 AKILI SMITH



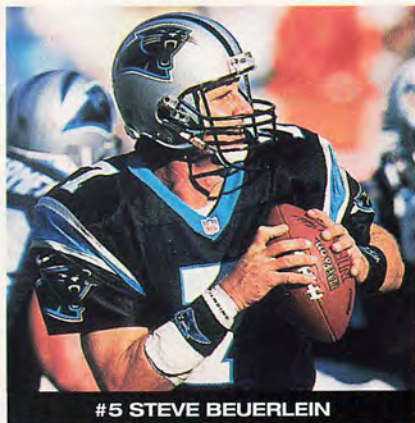
#4 BRAD JOHNSON



#2 PEYTON MANNING



#3 BRETT FAVRE



#5 STEVE BEUERLEIN



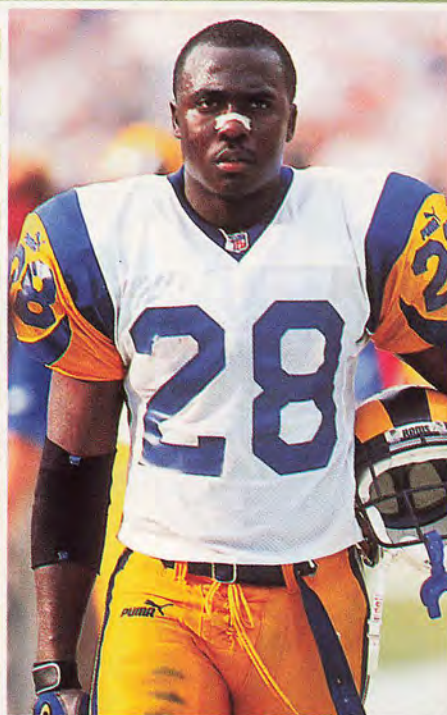
#18 TROY AIKMAN

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: AL MESSERSCHMIDT (2); JOHN WILLIAMSON (2); DAVID STLUKA; CHARLES BERNHARDT



# Running Backs

Player	Team	
1 Edgerrin James	IND	Rookie of the Year could have been MVP. Tied for No. 1 in total TDs, No. 2 in total yards.
2 Marshall Faulk	STL	NFL's most versatile back in its most dangerous offense. Lock for 2,000 total yards, nine TDs.
3 Fred Taylor	JAX	Most explosive back in the league when healthy. Should put up MVP-like numbers.
4 Eddie George	TEN	Averaging 340 carries, 1,300 yards, seven TDs rushing. Becoming bigger part of passing game.
5 Stephen Davis	WAS	Bruising workhorse led league in scoring with 17 TDs and was No. 2 with 4.8 yards a carry.
6 Terrell Davis	DEN	He's capable of the best numbers in the league, but how will he rebound from injury?
7 Curtis Martin	NYJ	Has rushed for at least 1,150 yards in each of five seasons, but TD production has declined.
8 Emmitt Smith	DAL	Just when you think his career is over he scores 13 TDs and rushes for almost 1,400 yards.
9 Dorsey Levens	GB	Double threat out of the backfield. Started slowly last season after returning from injury.
10 James Stewart	DET	Bobby Ross has the physical back he always wanted, and he won't take Stewart out at the goal line.
11 Ricky Watters	SEA	Model of consistency has averaged more than 1,650 total yards, nine TDs over last five seasons.
12 Jamal Anderson	ATL	May take time to regain what he had in '98 and whole team has a lot of questions.
13 Ricky Williams	NO	He has the talent—and now the team might, too—but does he have the heart?
14 Corey Dillon	CIN	Has potential to be one of league's best, but he's unhappy and defenses will key on him.
15 Robert Smith	MIN	Had third straight 1,000-yard season despite injuries. With Hoard gone, should score more.
16 Charlie Garner	SF	
17 Duce Staley	PHI	
18 Curtis Enis	CHI	
19 Tyrone Wheatley	OAK	
20 Thomas Jones*	SD	
21 Errict Rhett	CLE	
22 James Johnson	MIA	
23 Jerome Bettis	PIT	
24 Mike Alstott	TB	
25 Ron Dayne*	NYG	
26 Jamal Lewis*	BAL	
27 Antowain Smith	BUF	
28 Raymont Harris	NE	
29 Tim Biakabutuka	CAR	
30 Donnell Bennett	KC	
31 Robert Chancey	SD	
32 Olandis Gary	DEN	
33 Leroy Hoard	FA	
34 Moe Williams	MIN	
35 Warrick Dunn	TB	
36 Shaun Alexander*	SEA	
37 Priest Holmes	BAL	
38 Kevin Faulk	NE	
39 Richard Huntley	PIT	
40 Napoleon Kaufman	OAK	
41 Michael Pittman	AZ	
42 Natrone Means	CAR	
43 Adrian Murrell	WAS	
44 Shawn Bryson	BUF	
45 Skip Hicks	WAS	
46 Jonathan Linton	BUF	
47 Robert Holcombe	STL	
48 Karim Abdul-Jabbar	FA	
49 Fred Beasley	SF	
50 Ken Oxendine	ATL	
51 Terry Kirby	CLE	
52 Tiki Barber	NYG	
53 Jermaine Fzande	SD	
54 Thurman Thomas	MIA	
55 Joe Montgomery	NYG	
56 Stanley Pritchett	MIA	
57 Chris Warren	DAL	
58 Sedrick Irvin	DET	
59 Larry Centers	WAS	
60 Anthony Johnson	CAR	



#2 MARSHALL FAULK



#4 EDDIE GEORGE

## Tight Ends

Player	Team
1 Tony Gonzalez	KC
2 Wesley Walls	CAR
3 Shannon Sharpe	BAL
4 Rickey Dudley	OAK
5 Jay Riemersma	BUF
6 Byron Chamberlain	DEN
7 David Sloan	DET
8 Cameron Cleeland	NO
9 Pete Mitchell	NYG
10 Ben Coates	FA
11 Freddie Jones	SD
12 Bubba Franks*	GB
13 Ken Dilger	IND
14 Frank Wycheck	TEN
15 David LaFleur	DAL
16 Kyle Brady	JAX
17 Roland Williams	STL
18 Anthony Becht*	NYJ
19 Stephen Alexander	WAS
20 Jeff Thomason	PHI



#3 SHANNON SHARPE



# Wide Receivers

Player	Team	
1 Randy Moss	MIN	Most physically talented wideout in NFL. Led league in yards per catch for second year.
2 Marvin Harrison	IND	Slowed down at end of season, but still was No. 1 in yards and No. 2 in TDs and catches.
3 Jimmy Smith	JAX	Led WRs with 116 catches and was No. 2 with 1,636 yards. Should get more TDs this season.
4 Cris Carter	MIN	One of the best ever just keeps getting better. At least 1,000 yards, 10 TDs since 1995.
5 Keyshawn Johnson	TB	Carried the Jets' offense last year. Immediately becomes the Bucs' most dangerous weapon.
6 Isaac Bruce	STL	Stayed healthy and lived up to promise with 12 TDs. May not be enough balls to go around with Rams.
7 Antonio Freeman	GB	Whole team must rebound from terrible season, but Favre is the QB to make it happen.
8 Joey Galloway	DAL	Speed kills and he's a threat to score from anywhere on the field. Offense is well-balanced.
9 Muhsin Muhammad	CAR	Carolina's best offensive player and there's enough talent around him to create opportunities.
10 Eric Moulds	BUF	May be the NFL's best all-around receiver. Rob Johnson should get him the ball deep.
11 Tim Brown	OAK	Ageless wonder finally has talent around him. Safe bet for 80 catches and 1,000 yards.
12 Michael Westbrook	WAS	Finally showed what he's capable of, but never started more than 10 games before last year.
13 Germane Crowell	DET	Emerged as Detroit's main weapon. Arrival of James Stewart makes offense more dangerous.
14 Marcus Robinson	CHI	Did his best Moss impersonation last year in Chicago, but can he—and offense—do it again?
15 Ed McCaffrey	DEN	Savvy veteran is consistent and makes the big plays. 2,000 yards, 17 TDs in last two years.

16 Darnay Scott	CIN
17 Rod Smith	DEN
18 Albert Connell	WAS
19 Amani Toomer	NYG
20 Peter Warrick*	CIN
21 Wayne Chrebet	NYJ
22 Terry Glenn	NE
23 Derrick Mayes	SEA
24 Keenan McCardell	JAX
25 Patrick Jeffers	CAR
26 Kevin Johnson	CLE
27 Terrell Owens	SF
28 Raghieb Ismail	DAL
29 Az-Zahir Hakim	STL
30 Terance Mathis	ATL
31 Curtis Conway	SD
32 Jerry Rice	SF
33 Travis Taylor*	BAL
34 Tony Martin	MIA
35 Herman Moore	DET
36 Jake Reed	NO
37 Corey Bradford	GB
38 Jermaine Lewis	BAL
39 Rob Moore	AZ
40 Carl Pickens	CIN
41 Derrick Alexander	KC
42 Plaxico Burress*	PIT
43 Bobby Engram	CHI
44 Qadry Ismail	FA
45 Kevin Dyson	TEN
46 Peerless Price	BUF
47 Shawn Jefferson	ATL
48 Johnnie Morton	DET
49 O.J. McDuffie	MIA
50 Sean Dawkins	SEA
51 Frank Sanders	AZ
52 James Jett	OAK
53 Ike Hilliard	NYG
54 Yancey Thigpen	TEN
55 Bill Schroeder	GB
56 Troy Brown	NE
57 Joe Horn	NO
58 Eddie Kennison	CHI
59 Torry Holt	STL
60 E.G. Green	IND



#10 ERIC MOULDS



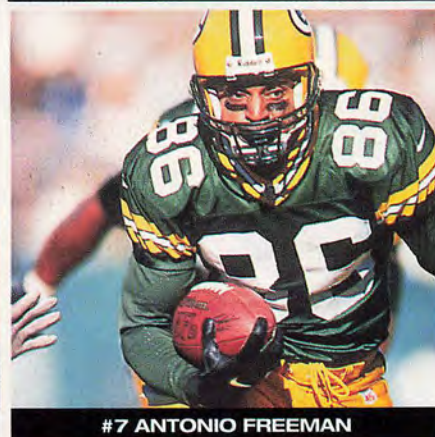
#3 JIMMY SMITH



#5 KEYSHAWN JOHNSON



#2 MARVIN HARRISON



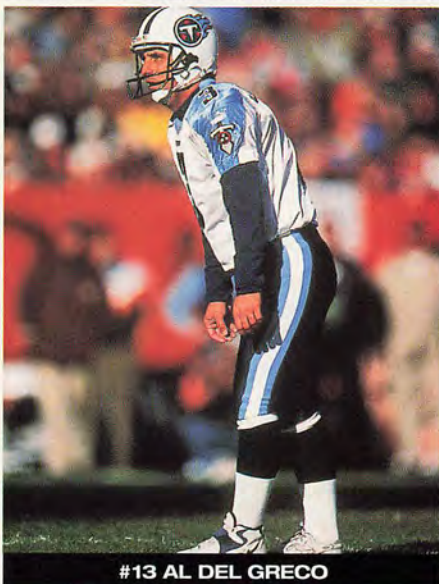
#7 ANTONIO FREEMAN

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: TOMASSO DEROSA; FRANK DIBRANGO; TOMASSO DEROSA; CHUCK RYDLEWSKI; TOMASSO DEROSA



# Kickers

Player	Team
1 Mike Vanderjagt	IND
2 Mike Hollis	JAX
3 Todd Peterson	SEA
4 Olindo Mare	MIA
5 Jason Elam	DEN
6 Brett Conway	WAS
7 Matt Stover	BAL
8 Jason Hanson	DET
9 Ryan Longwell	GB
10 Jeff Wilkins	STL
11 Gary Anderson	MIN
12 John Carney	SD
13 Al Del Greco	TEN
14 Pete Stoyanovich	KC
15 Sebastian Janikowski*	OAK
16 Steve Christie	BUF
17 Adam Vinatieri	NE
18 John Hall	NYJ
19 Doug Brien	NO
20 Martin Gramatica	TB



#13 AL DEL GRECO



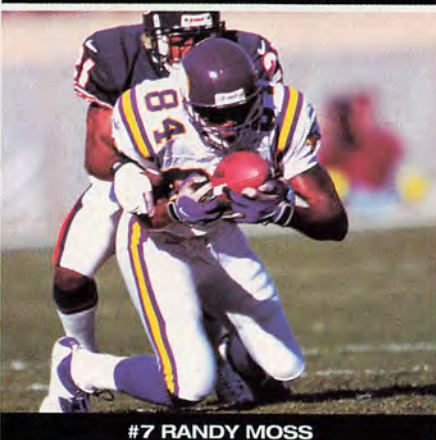
#19 DORSEY LEVENS

# Defenses

Team
1 Jacksonville
2 Baltimore
3 Kansas City
4 Tennessee
5 Tampa Bay
6 St. Louis
7 Washington
8 Dallas
9 Philadelphia
10 Detroit
11 Seattle
12 New York Jets
13 New England
14 Oakland
15 Miami
16 Denver
17 Minnesota
18 Green Bay
19 Chicago
20 San Diego
21 Buffalo
22 New York Giants
23 New Orleans
24 Indianapolis
25 Carolina
26 Pittsburgh
27 Arizona
28 San Francisco
29 Cleveland
30 Cincinnati
31 Atlanta



#5 THE BUCS DEFENSE



#7 RANDY MOSS

# Power 60

Player	Team
1 Edgerrin James	IND
2 Marshall Faulk	STL
3 Kurt Warner	STL
4 Fred Taylor	JAX
5 Peyton Manning	IND
6 Brett Favre	GB
7 Randy Moss	MIN
8 Marvin Harrison	IND
9 Eddie George	TEN
10 Stephen Davis	WAS
11 Terrell Davis	DEN
12 Jimmy Smith	JAX
13 Cris Carter	MIN
14 Curtis Martin	NYJ
15 Brad Johnson	WAS
16 Keyshawn Johnson	TB
17 Isaac Bruce	STL
18 Emmitt Smith	DAL
19 Dorsey Levens	GB
20 Antonio Freeman	GB
21 Steve Beuerlein	CAR
22 James Stewart	DET
23 Ricky Watters	SEA
24 Joey Galloway	SEA
25 Jamal Anderson	ATL
26 Ricky Williams	NO
27 Muhsin Muhammad	CAR
28 Eric Moulds	BUF
29 Jon Kitna	SEA
30 Tim Brown	OAK
31 Rich Gannon	OAK
32 Drew Bledsoe	NE
33 Mark Brunell	JAX
34 Corey Dillon	CIN
35 Rob Johnson	BUF
36 Robert Smith	MIN
37 Michael Westbrook	WAS
38 Steve McNair	TEN
39 Germane Crowell	DET
40 Charlie Garner	SF
41 Tony Gonzalez	KC
42 Vinny Testaverde	NYJ
43 Marcus Robinson	CHI
44 Duce Staley	PHI
45 Wesley Walls	CAR
46 Curtis Enis	CHI
47 Tyrone Wheatley	OAK
48 Thomas Jones*	SD
49 Shannon Sharpe	BAL
50 Tony Banks	BAL
51 Errict Rhett	CLE
52 Ed McCaffrey	DEN
53 James Johnson	MIA
54 Darnay Scott	CIN
55 Brian Griese	DEN
56 Rickey Dudley	OAK
57 Jerome Bettis	PIT
58 Jeff Blake	NO
59 Mike Alstott	TB
60 Ron Dayne*	NYG

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: ALLSPORT U.S.A.; AL MESSERSCHMIDT (3)



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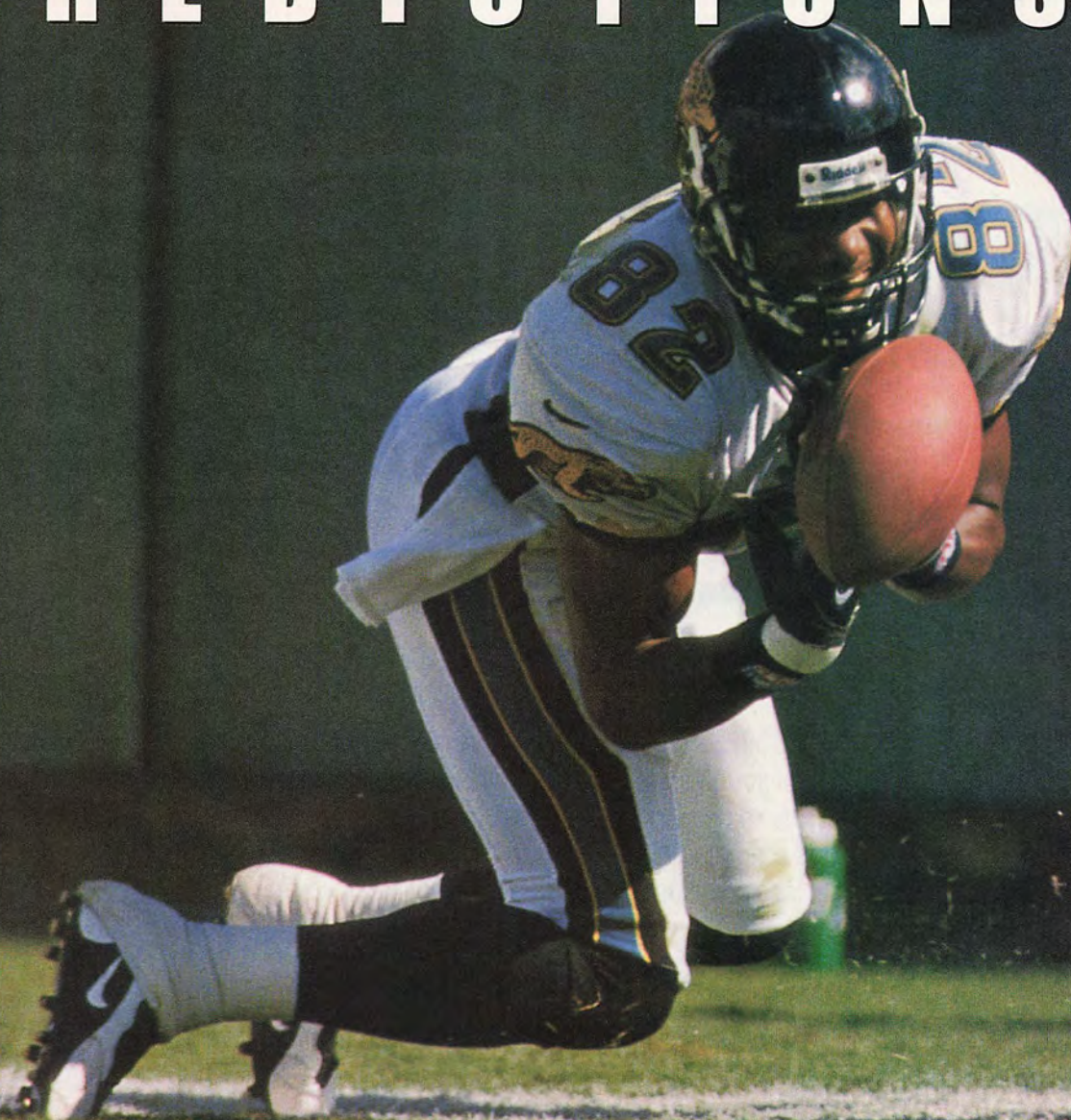
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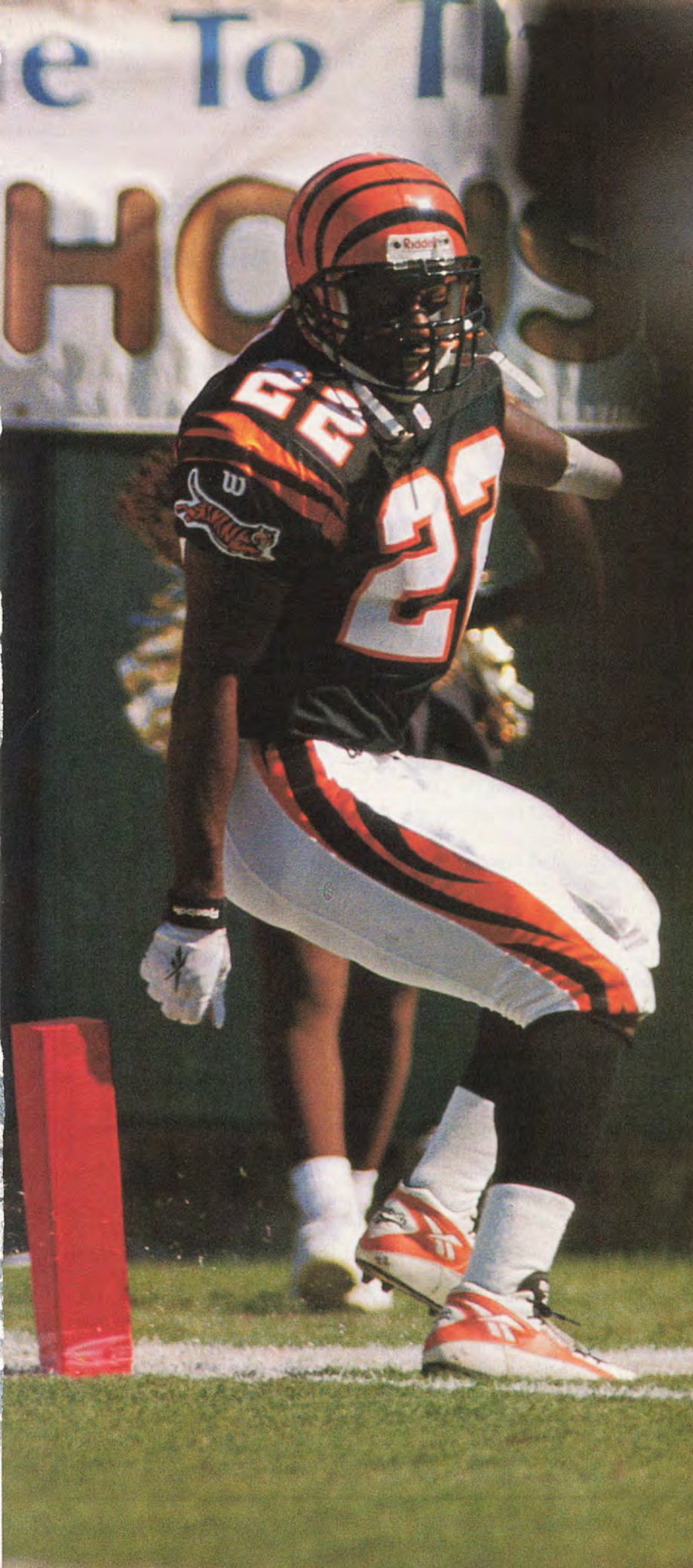
WELCOME  
CAT

2000

PREDICTIONS







## **AFC EAST**

1. Indianapolis Colts
2. Buffalo Bills\*
3. New York Jets
4. Miami Dolphins
5. New England Patriots

## **AFC CENTRAL**

1. Jacksonville Jaguars
2. Tennessee Titans\*
3. Baltimore Ravens\*
4. Cincinnati Bengals
5. Pittsburgh Steelers
6. Cleveland Browns

## **AFC WEST**

1. Oakland Raiders
2. Denver Broncos
3. Seattle Seahawks
4. Kansas City Chiefs
5. San Diego Chargers

## **NFC EAST**

1. Washington Redskins
2. Dallas Cowboys\*
3. Philadelphia Eagles
4. Arizona Cardinals
5. New York Giants

## **NFC CENTRAL**

1. Tampa Bay Buccaneers
2. Green Bay Packers\*
3. Chicago Bears
4. Minnesota Vikings
5. Detroit Lions

## **NFC WEST**

1. St. Louis Rams
2. Atlanta Falcons\*
3. Carolina Panthers
4. New Orleans Saints
5. San Francisco 49ers

\*Indicates wild card

## **SUPER BOWL XXXV**

**Jacksonville Jaguars  
over  
Tampa Bay Buccaneers**

Statistics compiled by Bryan McSwain  
Rosters provided by STATS Inc.

ACTIVE IMAGES PHOTO OF JIMMY SMITH (LEFT)  
AND RODNEY HEATH





# AFC EAST

## Absentees will make former division of dogfights ripe for Indy's picking.

By Larry Felser, *Buffalo News*

**T**he AFC East has changed from "the most competitive division in the NFL" to "the absentee division."

Count the missing personalities:

Bill Parcells is no longer the coach of the Jets and Keyshawn Johnson, their best player, is now a Tampa Bay Buc.

Jimmy Johnson no longer is coach of the Miami Dolphins and Dan Marino has taken up residence in the retired quarterbacks' home.

Bruce Smith and Thurman Thomas were the most notable casualties of Buffalo's "Great Salary Cap Purge."

The Patriots, under new coach Bill Belichick, jettisoned a large part of their offensive unit.

### Indianapolis Colts

The only team that stayed intact was Indianapolis, a major reason why the Colts are the division favorite. Like the Cowboys of the early 1990s with Troy Aikman, Emmitt Smith and Michael Irvin, Indy depends a great deal on its own football trinity—quarterback Peyton Manning, running back Edgerrin James and wide receiver Marvin Harrison. The scary part is that they are still getting acquainted with one another.

General Manager Bill Polian and coach Jim Mora are both from the "run-the-ball-and-field-a-defense-that-stops-the-run" school. Once James arrived, running the ball wasn't a problem. Stopping the run has been far more difficult. The draft might have solved that with the selections of Brigham Young middle linebacker Rob Morris and the tough outside 'backer from Auburn, Marcus Washington.

### Buffalo Bills

When their season ended, the Bills saw themselves just a "Home Run Throwback" away from the Super Bowl. Less than a month later, they had vacancy signs all over their roster. Choked by the salary cap, they bade sad farewells to Bruce Smith, Thurman Thomas and Andre Reed, the last remaining members of their four-time Super Bowl team.

In all, they lost four defensive starters and one on offense.

What should keep Buffalo in contention is the strength of the organization, its personnel department. The average drafting position of the Bills for the last 10 years was 23rd, yet they keep on winning because of annual reinforcements. This season may be no different.

### New York Jets

The manner in which the Jets salvaged their record—winning seven of their last nine games after starting 1-6 because of a plague of injuries—was among the wonders of the last season of the millennium. The trouble is that it was a triumph of great coaching by Bill Parcells, more than anything.

But now Parcells is gone. So is Bill Belichick, the defensive guru who won games with smoke and mirrors. So is Keyshawn Johnson, the team's best player, who forced his own exit rather than stay to play for the new coach, Al Groh.

### Miami Dolphins

Jimmy Johnson left the offensive cupboard bare for his handpicked successor, Dave Wannstedt. The Dolphins have no playmakers. Untested Jay Fiedler, signed as a free agent, is Marino's likely successor. There is no speed back. Tony Martin, 13th in the AFC in receptions, is the closest thing Fiedler has to a go-to receiver.

Wannstedt will run the defense, which is the team's principal strength.

### New England Patriots

The enigmatic Belichick forced his way out of New York, declining to succeed Parcells. It cost the Patriots a first-round draft choice to bring him to New England. Once there, Belichick tore apart his offense, now minus three offensive line starters, one-time star tight end Ben Coates and starting wide receiver Shawn Jefferson.

If the Pats do anything this season, it will be courtesy of their strong defense, which allowed opponents 14 points or less in half its games.



### TOP PLAYERS

**OFFENSE:**  
Peyton Manning, QB  
Indianapolis Colts

**DEFENSE:**  
Sam Cowart, LB  
Buffalo Bills

**NEWCOMER:**  
Rob Morris, LB  
Indianapolis Colts







## Explosive Colts are ready to plow through the East again and make a real run at the Super Bowl.

**T**he Colts merely scratched the surface with their 13 victories in 1999. This team, which made a quantum leap from their 3-13 season in '98, is just learning to win. Even by the current standards of the "Here Today, Gone Tomorrow NFL," look for Indy to flourish for at least the next four



*Edgerrin James proved that he indeed was a better fit for the Colts than Ricky Williams, catching 62 passes and rushing for 1,553 yards.*

years. That's how long quarterback **Peyton Manning**, running back **Edgerrin James**, wide receiver **Marvin Harrison**, tight end **Ken Dilger**, right tackle **Adam Meadows** and other important Colts are locked up by contracts.

That's good news for Colt fans and bad news for the opposition. Manning passed for 4,135 yards in '99, James ran for 1,553 and Harrison caught passes worth 1,663. James and Harrison combined for 25 touchdowns. Is it any wonder Indy was the No. 1 offensive team in the AFC?

### 'Manning' the offense

The consensus feeling among NFL people is that Manning is the best young quarterback

in the league already. Many believe he has edged into the "great" category in just his second pro year. The Colts recognize that Manning is their engine and they protect him. He attempted 533 passes last year and was sacked just 14 times. That's a Dan Marino figure from his prime. There were five other NFL quarterbacks who passed 500 or more times and the average number of sacks they suffered was 43. Manning does not have the mobility of a Brett Favre, but the quickness of his release is the major ally of his blockers.

Colts President Bill Polian was criticized in some quarters for passing up Ricky Williams to draft James, but James made more sense for the Indianapolis offense. It wasn't just about running style. James caught 62 passes in his rookie season, averaging 9.5 yards per catch. Williams caught 28 for New Orleans, averaging three fewer yards. The downside was his eight fumbles.

If there is one weakness in the Colts' passing attack, it's the over-reliance on Harrison (115 catches) downfield. Basically, Indy is a conservative offensive team. Dilger, considered by some the best all-around tight end in the NFL, combined with fellow tight end **Marcus Pollard** for 74 catches. The Colts use a lot of double-tight end formations. Pollard started 10 games.

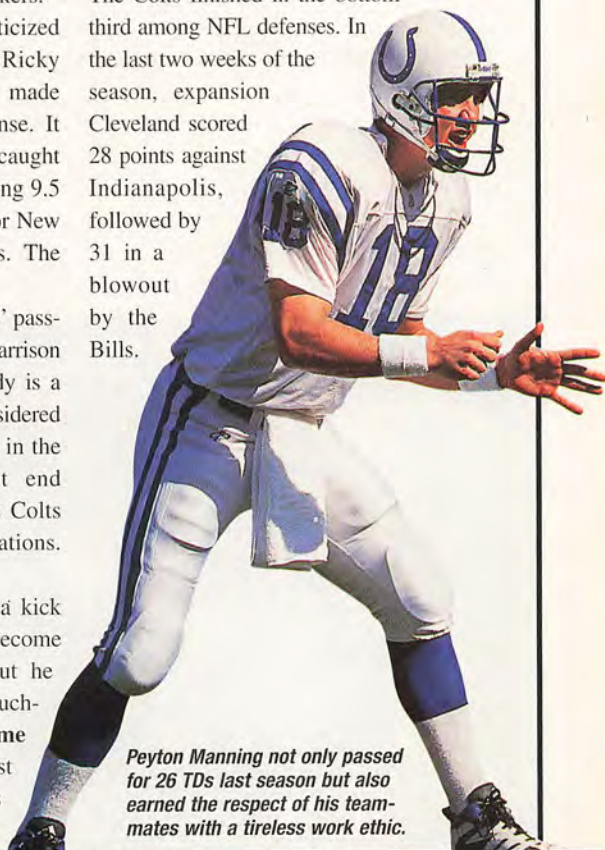
**Terrence Wilkins**, who began as a kick returner and expanded his game to become the No. 2 receiver, is undersized but he caught 42 passes, including four for touchdowns. Neither **E.G. Green** nor **Jerome Pathon** caught a touchdown pass last year. Both of them are speed/quickness receivers like Harrison. The Colts

need a possession receiver with size to help out Manning. Since no receiver was drafted, the search will go on.

The strength of the offensive line is at the tackles, with **Tarik Glenn** on the left and **Meadows** on the right. Left guard **Steve McKinney** is fine, but Indy just gets by with **Larry Moore** at center and **Waverly Jackson** at right guard. When the formation calls for a fullback, it's **Paul Shields**. Any lengthy injury to Manning, James or Harrison and the Colts' offense moves closer to the pack.

### Draft gets defensive

Polian used six of his seven draft picks on defensive players, which speaks loudly about the most obvious chink in the team's armor. The Colts finished in the bottom third among NFL defenses. In the last two weeks of the season, expansion **Cleveland** scored 28 points against Indianapolis, followed by 31 in a blowout by the Bills.



*Peyton Manning not only passed for 26 TDs last season but also earned the respect of his teammates with a tireless work ethic.*

### NUMBERS

TEAM STATS		NFL RANK
TOTAL OFFENSE	357.9	4
RUSHING	103.8	19
PASSING	254.1	4
SCORING	26.4	3
PUNT RETURNS	9.5	15T
KICK RETURNS	20.9	15
RED ZONE TD %	.443	19

TEAM STATS		NFL RANK
TOTAL DEFENSE	326.3	15
AGAINST RUSH	107.2	18
AGAINST PASS	219.1	18T
PTS. ALLOWED	20.8	17
INTERCEPTIONS	10	30
SACKS	41	12T
TURNOVER DIFF.	-5	19T



**CHAD COTA**  
87 TACKLES 1 TD









Tight end Ken Dilger continued to improve in his fifth season, catching 40 passes for 479 yards.

an impressive rookie debut, on the right. Peterson led the team in tackles, many of them in the open field.

### Secondary: Looking for Mr. Playmaker

Defensive coordinator Vic Fangio must get more playmaking out of his secondary. As a group, they intercepted just nine passes, none by the safeties, **Jason Belser** and **Chad Cota**. It was the first time in Belser's eight-year career that he was blanked. Cota's whitewash was a surprise, since he had 11 interceptions in the previous three seasons as a Saint and Panther. It would not be a shock if right corner **Tyrone Poole** was assigned to play nickel back, while rookie corner **David Macklin** of Penn State crashes the starting lineup despite his lack of height (5-9). Left corner **Jeff Burris** is the top coverage man in the secondary.

Wilkins is a terror as a return specialist. He scored on a 97-yard kickoff return and a 39-yard punt return as well as the four touchdown catches. But what goes around comes around. The punt coverage was dreadful. Opponents averaged 16.2 yards per return. More help is needed from punter **Hunter Smith**, whose gross average, 42.5 yards, landed him in the league's top 10 as a rookie. **Mike Vanderjagt** was the AFC's most accurate field goal kicker, converting 34 of 38 attempts, including 10-of-11 from 40 to 49 yards.



## 2000 SCHEDULE

WEEK			
WEEK 1	9/3	at Kansas City	1:00
WEEK 2	9/10	OAKLAND	1:00
WEEK 3	9/17	OPEN DATE	
WEEK 4	9/25	JACKSONVILLE	9:00
WEEK 5	10/1	at Buffalo	1:00
WEEK 6	10/8	at New England	1:00
WEEK 7	10/15	at Seattle	4:05
WEEK 8	10/22	NEW ENGLAND	1:00
WEEK 9	10/29	DETROIT	1:00
WEEK 10	11/5	at Chicago	1:00
WEEK 11	11/12	N.Y. JETS	8:20
WEEK 12	11/19	at Green Bay	1:00
WEEK 13	11/26	MIAMI	1:00
WEEK 14	12/3	at N.Y. Jets	4:15
WEEK 15	12/11	BUFFALO	9:00
WEEK 16	12/17	at Miami	4:15
WEEK 17	12/24	MINNESOTA	4:15

\*All times Eastern

## INDIANAPOLIS COLTS

Jim Mora, head coach

**Bruce Arians**, quarterbacks; **George Catavolos**, assistant head coach/defensive backs; **Todd Grantham**, defensive line; **Gene Huey**, running backs; **Tony Marciano**, tight ends; **Tom Moore**, offensive coordinator; **Howard Mudd**, offensive line; **Mike Murphy**, linebackers; **Jay Norvell**, receivers; **John Pagano**, defensive assistant; **Kevin Spencer**, special teams; **Jon Torine**, conditioning coach; **Jon Torine**, strength and conditioning coach; **Cathy Catellier**, assistant to the head coach; **Debbie Pulasky**, coaching assistant

#	QUARTERBACK	HT	WT	BORN	EXP.	COLLEGE
13	Holcomb, Kelly	QB	6-2	212	07/09/73	3 Middle Tennessee State
18	Manning, Peyton	QB	6-5	230	03/24/76	2 Tennessee
7	Gonzalez, Pete	QB	6-1	216	07/04/74	1 Pittsburgh

#	OFFENSIVE LINE	HT	WT	BORN	EXP.	COLLEGE
73	Meadows, Adam	T	6-5	299	01/25/74	3 Georgia
74	Glenn, Tarik	T	6-5	335	05/25/76	3 California
74	Jackson, Waverly	G	6-2	310	12/19/72	2 Virginia Tech
76	McKinney, Steve	G	6-4	302	10/15/75	2 Texas A&M
50	Moore, Larry	C	6-2	312	06/01/75	2 Brigham Young
63	Saturday, Jeff	C	6-2	298	06/08/75	1 North Carolina

#	RUNNING BACKS	HT	WT	BORN	EXP.	COLLEGE
34	McElroy, Leeland	RB	5-9	212	06/25/74	2 Texas A&M
32	Lane, Fred	RB	5-10	205	09/06/75	3 Lane
32	James, Edgerrin	RB	6-0	216	08/01/78	1 Miami (FL)
39	Finn, James	RB	5-10	238	12/09/76	0 Pennsylvania
39	Shields, Paul	RB	6-1	238	01/31/76	1 Arizona

#	RECEIVERS	HT	WT	BORN	EXP.	COLLEGE
83	Banta, Bradford	TE	6-6	260	12/14/70	6 Southern California
85	Dilger, Ken	TE	6-5	259	02/02/71	5 Illinois
81	Pollard, Marcus	TE	6-4	257	02/08/72	5 Bradley
88	Harrison, Marvin	WR	6-0	181	08/25/72	4 Syracuse
84	Green, E.G.	WR	5-11	190	06/28/75	2 Florida State
86	Pathon, Jerome	WR	6-0	187	12/16/75	2 Washington
84	Hall, Darran	WR	5-8	166	09/08/75	0 Colorado State
16	Plummer, Chad	WR	6-3	223	11/30/75	0 Cincinnati
80	Wilkins, Terrence	WR	5-8	179	07/29/75	1 Virginia
15	Jones, Isaac	WR	6-0	190	12/07/75	1 Purdue

#	DEFENSIVE LINE	HT	WT	BORN	EXP.	COLLEGE
61	McCoy, Tony	DT	6-1	289	06/10/69	8 Florida
90	Thomas, Mark	DE	6-5	265	05/06/69	7 North Carolina State
92	Bratzke, Chad	DE	6-5	275	09/15/71	6 Eastern Kentucky
95	Whittington, B.	DE	6-5	280	08/20/71	6 Indiana
62	Johnson, Ellis	DT	6-2	292	10/30/73	5 Florida
79	Holsey, Bernard	DT	6-2	284	12/10/73	4 Duke
64	Chester, Larry	DT	6-2	305	10/17/75	2 Temple
99	Scioli, Brad	DE	6-3	277	09/06/76	1 Penn State
91	Nwokorie, Chuckie	DE	6-2	286	07/10/75	1 Purdue

#	DEFENSIVE BACKS	HT	WT	BORN	EXP.	COLLEGE
29	Belser, Jason	S	5-9	196	05/28/70	8 Oklahoma
20	Burris, Jeff	CB	6-0	190	06/07/72	6 Notre Dame
38	Poole, Tyrone	CB	5-8	188	02/03/72	5 Fort Valley State
37	Cota, Chad	S	6-1	198	08/13/71	5 Oregon
26	Blevins, Tony	CB	6-0	165	01/29/75	2 Kansas
47	Austin, Billy	S	5-10	195	03/08/75	2 New Mexico
21	Miranda, Paul	CB	5-10	184	05/02/76	1 Central Florida
31	Muhammad, Steve	CB	5-10	180	10/19/73	1 Fresno State

#	LINEBACKERS	HT	WT	BORN	EXP.	COLLEGE
97	Bennett, Cornelius	LB	6-3	240	08/25/65	13 Alabama
55	Thomas, Ratcliff	LB	6-0	240	01/02/74	2 Maryland
52	Peterson, Mike	LB	6-2	229	06/17/76	1 Florida
53	Stimson, Nate	LB	6-1	260	03/04/76	0 Georgia Tech

#	KICKERS	HT	WT	BORN	EXP.	COLLEGE
7	Kight, Danny	K	6-0	200	08/18/71	1 Auburn
12	Vanderjagt, Mike	K	6-5	210	03/24/70	2 West Virginia
17	Smith, Hunter	P	6-2	212	08/09/77	1 Notre Dame

\*roster as of May 15

## 2000 DRAFTEES

RD	PICK	NAME	POS	HT	WT	BORN	COLLEGE
1	28	Morris, Rob	LB	6-2	250	01/18/75	Brigham Young
2	28	Washington, Marcus	LB	6-4	251	10/17/77	Auburn
3	29	Macklin, David	CB	5-9	195	07/14/78	Penn State
4	28	Williams, Josh	DE	6-3	280	08/09/76	Michigan
5	9	Johnson, Matt	T	6-4	330	09/24/73	Brigham Young
7	29	Renes, Rob	DT	6-1	286	03/28/77	Michigan
7	32	Brooks, Rodregis	CB	5-9	176	08/30/78	UAB





Rob Johnson (above) came in last season and established himself as the Bills' quarterback of the future, while second-year man Jonathan Linton surprisingly led the team in rushing.

## Thanks to a decade of dynamic drafting, the Bills are likely to put together a successful makeover.

Last winter, Jim Mora, coach of the rival Indianapolis Colts, said of the Bills, "At the end of the season I thought they were the best team in the AFC." Other people who analyze NFL teams for a living said, "Maybe, but they allowed themselves to get too old."

Not any longer—on both counts.

### 'Capping' an era

The Bills hit the salary-cap ceiling in February. By force of economics, they did a startling makeover between seasons. Sixteen players who ended the 1999 season on their roster are gone. That includes seven starters: all-time defensive end Bruce Smith, fullback Sam Gash, right guard Dusty Zeigler, outside linebacker Gabe Northern, strong safety Kurt Schulz, right cornerback Thomas Smith and kick returner Kevin Williams. The other departees included golden oldies Thurman Thomas, the all-time running back, and wide receiver Andre Reed.

Even more startling than the makeover, the Bills still bear the look of a contender. Astute drafting and bargain free-agent signings appear to have left Buffalo enough to push for at least another wild-card playoff berth. The difference is that this team should be spearheaded by its veteran offense.

"I like our team," admits coach Wade Phillips. "We knew we were headed for salary-cap problems, so we made it our top two priorities to keep (guard) **Ruben Brown** and (tight end) **Jay Riemersma**. Our offense is pretty much intact."

Brown is the four-time Pro Bowl left guard who tried to break the free-agent bank and was unsuccessful, so he made an unexpected

return to Buffalo. The Bills overpaid to keep Riemersma out of Cleveland or some other place where he was wanted, but the young tight end is their red-zone playmaker and they felt they had to keep him.

### Rob's job to keep

The makeover actually started the week before the fateful playoff game at Tennessee, when Phillips made the announcement that **Doug Flutie** would be replaced as the starting quarterback by young **Rob Johnson**. There were raised eyebrows around the league and a civic uproar along the Niagara Frontier, where Flutie is wildly popular. But those close to the team were surprised the move hadn't been made weeks before. Good teams were defending Flutie well for most of the season. With him at quarterback, Buffalo's scoring average fell by seven points a game. His passing-efficiency rating had plummeted to near the bottom of the AFC and his rate of interceptions along with it.

In their last five starts under Johnson, the Bills averaged 30 points a game. In those games he attempted 127 passes and was intercepted once, and not at all in his last four starts. His passing-efficiency rating in that stretch was 30 points above Flutie's.

So why not cut ties to Flutie altogether? Because Johnson has been injury-prone in his short NFL career. Since it takes time for an opposing defense to prepare for Flutie's unique skills, the idea of him coming off the bench is considered an asset by the Bills. Phillips also says he wants to incorporate spread formations into his offense to accommodate Flutie's strengths.

With Johnson in the lineup, offensive coordinator Joe Pendry says the Bills will be able to take full advantage of his big-play receivers, **Eric Moulds** and **Peerless Price**. Moulds fell off from his Pro Bowl performance of the previous season. Price caught most of his 31 passes in the latter half of his rookie year.

TEAM STATS		NFL RANK
TOTAL OFFENSE	333.3	11
RUSHING	127.5	8
PASSING	205.8	20T
SCORING	20.0	16
PUNT RETURNS	10.2	11T
KICK RETURNS	19.6	22
RED ZONE TD %	.462	17

TEAM STATS		NFL RANK
TOTAL DEFENSE	252.8	1
AGAINST RUSH	85.6	4
AGAINST PASS	167.2	1
PTS. ALLOWED	14.3	2
INTERCEPTIONS	12	26T
SACKS	37	20T
TURNOVER DIFF.	-6	23T



PEERLESS PRICE  
31 RECEPTIONS 3 TD



## Backfield remains in committee

The Bills used a committee of running backs to finish fourth in the AFC in rushing. Now the committee has expanded with the return of **Shawn Bryson** from the injury list and the drafting of **Sammy Morris**. Bryson was the talk of last summer's training camp as a rookie until he suffered a season-ending knee injury. Morris was a fullback and running back at Texas Tech, but the Bills think of him first as a running back. **Antowain Smith** was slowed by injuries last season, but scored a couple of touchdowns and played well in the playoff loss to Tennessee. Versatile **Jonathan Linton**, who led the Bills with 695 yards rushing, will probably inherit Gash's fullback job. Who fills Gash's role as team leader and locker-room force is an unanswered question. Since the Bills don't have serious outside running speed, Riemersma's ability to get open in the red zone is essential to their attack. Four of his 37 catches went for touchdowns.

## Mr. Smith goes to Washington

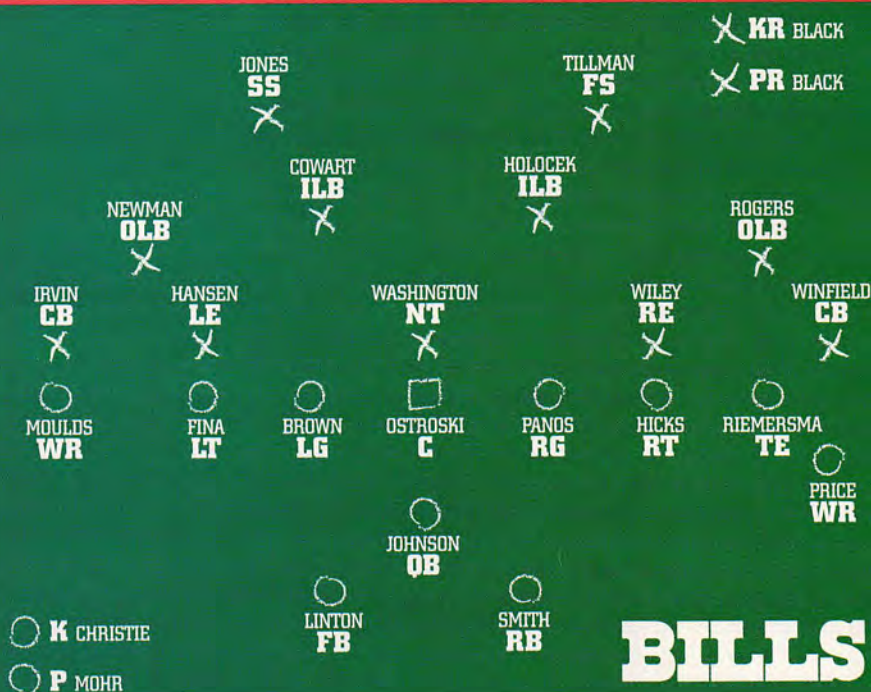
The Bills dislike playing rookies, but they took a calculated gamble in the draft in an attempt to compensate for their inexperience in the secondary. They will work their No. 1 pick, end **Erik Flowers**, and No. 3, Nagurski and Lombardi Award winner **Corey Moore**, into their platoon-system defensive line. Flowers and Moore, who had 30.5 sacks at Virginia Tech the last two seasons, will be



*Eric Moulds' production dropped off from his Pro Bowl year of 1998, but he still managed to pile up 994 receiving yards and 15.3 yards per catch.*

used as passing-down specialists. **Marcellus Wiley** is heir apparent at right end to Bruce Smith, who signed as a free agent with Washington. He had five sacks last year, two fewer than Smith. Old reliable **Phil Hansen**

## PROJECTED STARTERS



## 1999 FINAL STATS

Won 11, Lost 5

DATE		SCORE	
09/12	L	14-31	at Indianapolis
09/19	W	17-3	New York Jets
09/26	W	26-0	Philadelphia
10/04	W	23-18	at Miami
10/10	W	24-21	Pittsburgh
10/17	L	14-20	Oakland
10/24	L	16-26	at Seattle
10/31	W	13-10	at Baltimore
11/07	W	34-17	at Washington
11/14	W	23-3	Miami
11/21	L	7-17	at New York Jets
11/28	W	17-7	New England
12/12	L	17-19	New York Giants
12/19	W	31-21	at Arizona
12/26	W	13-10	at New England
01/02	W	31-6	Indianapolis

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Linton	205	695	3.4	18	5
A. Smith	165	614	3.7	52t	6
Flutie	88	476	5.4	24t	1
Thomas	36	152	4.2	31	0
Johnson	8	61	7.6	25	0
Gordon	11	38	3.5	13	0
K. Williams	1	13	13.0	13	0
Moulds	1	1	1.0	1	0
Mohr	1	0	0.0	0	0
Van Pelt	1	-1	-1.0	-1	0
Hicks	1	-2	-2.0	-2	0
P. Price	1	-7	-7.0	-7	0

Team	519	2040	3.9	52t	12
Opponents	407	1370	3.4	40	9

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Moulds	65	994	15.3	54t	7
Reed	52	536	10.3	30	1
Riemersma	37	496	13.4	38	4
P. Price	31	393	12.7	45	3
K. Williams	31	381	12.3	35	0
Linton	29	228	7.9	28	1
Gash	20	163	8.2	31t	2
Collins	9	124	13.8	45	2
Loud	6	66	11.0	20	0
Jackson	4	34	8.5	16	0
Thomas	3	37	12.3	23t	1
A. Smith	2	32	16.0	23	0
Hicks	1	-6	-6.0	-6	0

Team	290	3478	12.0	54t	21
Opponents	269	2889	10.7	50	12

PASSING	ATT	CMP	YDS	TD	INT
Flutie	478	264	3171	19	16
Johnson	34	25	298	2	0
Van Pelt	1	1	9	0	0
Team	513	290	3478	21	16
Opponents	506	269	2889	12	12

## SACKS

B. Smith 7.0, Hansen 6.0, Wiley 5.0, Northern 3.5, Rogers 3.0, S. Price 2.5, Washington 2.5, P. Williams 2.5, Perry 1.5, Cowart 1.0, Cummings 1.0, Holecsek 1.0, Moran 0.5

Team 37.0, Opponents 27.0



is the left end, with massive **Ted Washington**, coming off a down season, at nose tackle.



Re-signing standout sixth-year left guard **Ruben Brown** was one of the top priorities for Buffalo management in the offseason.

from beyond 50 yards. Punter **Chris Mohr** had his lowest gross average, 38.9 yards, since '91.

The strength of the line-backing is inside, where **Sam Cowart** is developing into one of the league's best and **John Holecek** is a fiery run-plugger. **Sam Rogers** is a five-year starter on the left side. **Keith Newman**, used little as a rookie, will be the untested starter on the right side.

Strong safety **Henry Jones**, a 10-year veteran, will have added responsibilities playing alongside a new strong safety, whether it's rookie **Travares Tillman** or **Keion Carpenter**. In Buffalo's system the free safety is rarely asked to play man-for-man coverage, just to support against the run and play center field. **Ken Irvin** is the senior cornerback, but the comer is **Antoine Winfield**, who made the All-Rookie Team playing cornerback. He'll take Thomas Smith's right corner post. **Donovan Greer** is the nickel back.

Rookie **Avion Black**, who returned four kicks for touchdowns at Tennessee State, is the new return man. Kicker **Steve Christie** had his worst year since 1993, connecting on 25 of 34 field goals, although he made all three attempts



## 2000 SCHEDULE

WEEK			
1	9/3	TENNESSEE	8:20
2	9/10	GREEN BAY	1:00
3	9/17	at New York Jets	1:00
4	9/24	OPEN DATE	
5	10/1	INDIANAPOLIS	1:00
6	10/8	at Miami	4:15
7	10/15	SAN DIEGO	1:00
8	10/22	at Minnesota	1:00
9	10/29	NEW YORK JETS	1:00
10	11/5	at New England	1:00
11	11/12	CHICAGO	1:00
12	11/19	at Kansas City	1:00
13	11/26	at Tampa Bay	1:00
14	12/3	MIAMI	1:00
15	12/11	at Indianapolis	9:00
16	12/17	NEW ENGLAND	1:00
17	12/23	at Seattle	8:20

\*All times Eastern

## BUFFALO BILLS

Wade Phillips, head coach

Max Bowman, Assistant to the head coach-tight ends; **Bill Bradley**, defensive backs; **Ted Cottrell**, defensive coordinator; **Chris Dickson**, offensive quality control; **Bishop Harris**, running backs; **Charlie Joiner**, receivers; **Ronnie Jones**, special teams. **Rusty Jones**, strength and conditioning; **Chuck Lester**, assistant linebackers; **John Levra**, defensive line; **Carl Mauck**, offensive line; **Joe Pendry**, offensive coordinator; **James Saxon**, running backs. **Turk Schonert**, quarterbacks

#	QUARTERBACK	HT	WT	BORN	EXP.	COLLEGE
7	Flutie, Doug	QB	5-10	178	10/23/62	6 Boston College
11	Johnson, Rob	QB	6-4	212	03/18/73	5 Southern California
#	OFFENSIVE LINE	HT	WT	BORN	EXP.	COLLEGE
70	Fina, John	T	6-4	300	03/11/69	8 Arizona
72	Panos, Joe	G	6-2	298	01/24/71	5 Wisconsin
60	Ostroski, Jerry	G	6-4	325	07/12/70	6 Tulsa
79	Brown, Ruben	G	6-3	304	02/13/72	5 Pittsburgh
76	Albright, Ethan	G	6-5	287	05/01/71	5 North Carolina
69	Spriggs, Marcus	T	6-3	315	05/17/74	3 Houston
74	Nails, Jamie	T	6-6	354	06/03/75	3 Florida A&M
63	Conaty, Bill	C	6-2	300	03/08/73	3 Virginia Tech
66	Allotey, Victor	G	6-3	325	04/08/75	0 Indiana
77	Hicks, Robert	T	6-7	338	11/17/74	2 Mississippi State
#	RUNNING BACKS	HT	WT	BORN	EXP.	COLLEGE
23	Smith, Antowain	RB	6-2	224	03/14/72	3 Houston
35	Linton, Jonathan	RB	6-0	238	10/07/74	2 North Carolina
31	Gordon, Lennox	RB	6-0	201	04/09/78	1 New Mexico
38	Bryson, Shawn	RB	6-0	235	11/30/76	2 Tennessee
#	RECEIVERS	HT	WT	BORN	EXP.	COLLEGE
83	Reed, Andre	WR	6-2	190	01/29/64	15 Kutztown
80	Moulds, Eric	WR	6-0	204	07/17/73	4 Mississippi State
85	Riemersma, Jay	TE	6-5	254	05/17/73	3 Michigan
81	Price, Peerless	WR	5-11	180	10/27/76	1 Tennessee
84	Collins, Bobby	TE	6-4	249	08/26/76	1 North Alabama
88	Jackson, Sheldon	TE	6-4	250	07/24/76	1 Nebraska
86	McDaniel, Jeremy	WR	6-0	197	05/02/76	1 Arizona
#	DEFENSIVE LINE	HT	WT	BORN	EXP.	COLLEGE
90	Hansen, Phil	DE	6-5	278	05/20/68	9 North Dakota State
92	Washington, Ted	NT	6-5	330	04/13/68	9 Louisville
91	Price, Shawn	DE	6-4	290	03/28/70	7 Pacific
75	Wiley, Marcellus	DE	6-4	275	11/30/74	3 Columbia
93	Williams, Pat	DT	6-3	310	10/24/72	3 Texas A&M
#	DEFENSIVE BACKS	HT	WT	BORN	EXP.	COLLEGE
20	Jones, Henry	S	6-0	197	12/29/67	9 Illinois
27	Irvin, Ken	CB	5-10	186	07/11/72	5 Memphis
25	Greer, Donovan	CB	5-9	178	09/11/74	3 Texas A&M
22	Porter, Daryl	CB	5-9	190	01/16/74	3 Boston College
26	Winfield, Antoine	CB	5-8	180	06/24/77	1 Ohio State
29	Carpenter, Keion	S	5-11	205	10/31/77	1 Virginia Tech
#	LINEBACKERS	HT	WT	BORN	EXP.	COLLEGE
59	Rogers, Sam	LB	6-3	245	05/30/70	6 Colorado
52	Holecek, John	LB	6-2	242	05/07/72	4 Illinois
56	Cowart, Sam	LB	6-2	245	02/26/75	2 Florida State
53	Newman, Keith	LB	6-2	243	01/19/77	1 North Carolina
55	Foreman, Jay	LB	6-1	240	02/18/76	1 Nebraska
#	KICKERS	HT	WT	BORN	EXP.	COLLEGE
2	Christie, Steve	K	6-0	190	11/13/67	10 William & Mary
9	Mohr, Chris	P	6-5	215	05/11/66	10 Alabama

\*roster as of May 15

## 2000 DRAFTEES

RD	PICK	NAME	POS	HT	WT	BORN	COLLEGE
1	26	Flowers, Erik	DE	6-4	270	03/01/78	Arizona State
2	27	Tillman, Travares	S	6-1	195	10/08/77	Georgia Tech
3	27	Moore, Corey	LB	5-11	222	03/20/77	Virginia Tech
4	27	Black, Avion	WR	6-0	180		Tennessee State
5	27	Morris, Sammy	RB	5-11	221	03/23/77	Texas Tech
6	28	Larsen, Laif	DE	6-5	300	04/03/75	UTEP
7	27	Haddad, Drew	WR	5-11	179	08/15/78	Buffalo
7	45	Polk, DaShon	LB	6-2	235	03/13/77	Arizona



## Jets will avoid 'Groh-ing' pains if Vinny comes back strong and first-round foursome pans out.

**L**ong-suffering Jet fans have a right to be frosted. Here they were a year ago, all set to watch their favorites make a run at the Super Bowl berth they thought was sure to be their's. Suddenly, Jet fortunes went back to the future. All that could go wrong, seemed to go wrong.



The Jets turned to Curtis Martin to bail the offense out last year after QB Vinny Testaverde went down. He did not disappoint, setting a single-season Jet record with 1,464 rushing yards.

Bill Parcells stepped down as coach. Bill Belichick declined to step up and was replaced by a relative stranger, Al Groh. The beloved owner, Leon Hess, died and was replaced by another relative stranger, Woody Johnson. The foremost Jet, Keyshawn Johnson, decided he didn't want to be a Jet any longer and forced a trade to Tampa Bay. To top it off, there was a stiff hike in the ticket prices.

### Quality for quantity

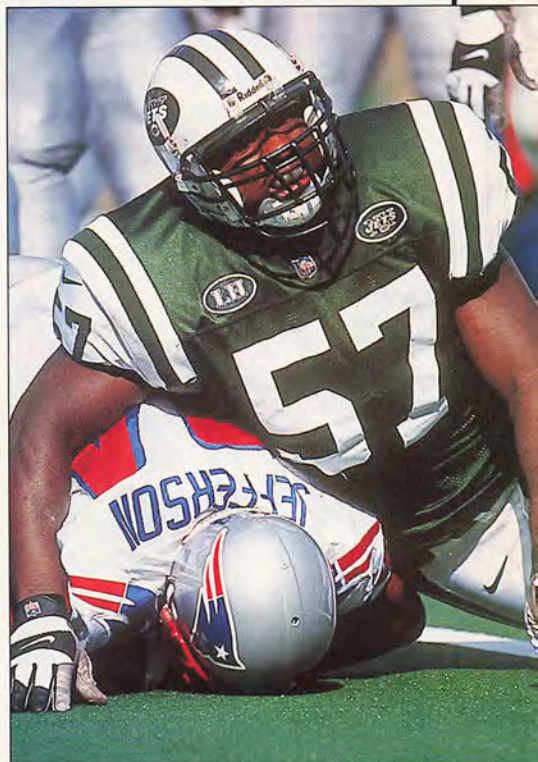
Instead of gearing up for a Super Bowl, the Jets are contemplating the future. New York became the first team in NFL history to come away from the draft with four first-round choices. The punch line is that none of them translates to a Keyshawn, at least in the immediate future.

The man on the biggest spot is Groh, who was happy to be a candidate to become head coach at Princeton when all the commotion started. His new job isn't just a matter of replacing a successful coach. Parcells was his own cult of personality. Few, if any, current pro coaches could have coaxed out of players what Parcells demanded and got. The change in coaching styles—to say nothing of personalities—will be Groh's biggest challenge.

Groh's choice of coordinators did not make things easier for him. His defensive coordinator is Mike Nolan, whom Redskins owner Daniel Snyder virtually ran out of Washington. His offensive coordinator is Dan Henning, whose last try at such a job ended in disaster in Buffalo.

**Vinny Testaverde**, who missed all but a few plays because of an opening-game injury, is back, but without Parcells, who stabilized his career. Not the strongest personality, Testaverde relied heavily on Parcells for direction. **Ray Lucas** was a great story as the emergency quarterback in the last half of the season, but the drafting of **Chad Pennington** demonstrated what the new regime thinks of Lucas' future.

The offense will revolve around the running of **Curtis Martin** more than ever. Martin had a superb year, rushing for 1,464



Pro Bowl linebacker Mo Lewis established himself as the unquestioned leader of the Jet defense in his 10th year.

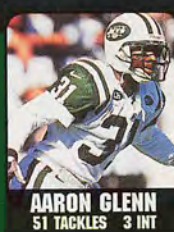
yards, second in the NFL. It was the fifth time Martin went over 1,100 yards in his five-year career. What he needs is a slam-bang fullback to lead him through the line. **Rich Anderson** is not the guy.

### Wayne's World

The receiving cupboard is not entirely bare. **Wayne Chrebet**, injured early last season, came back to catch 48 passes, but speedy **Dedric Ward** did not show the sort of improvement the Jets were expecting. Consequently, they rolled the dice in the draft, using a third-round choice to select **Laveranues Coles**, who was trouble at Florida State to the point where Bobby Bowden kicked him off the team. Coles'

NUMBERS	TEAM STATS		LEAGUE RANK	
	TOTAL OFFENSE	297.0	25	
	RUSHING	122.6	11	
	PASSING	174.4	28	
	SCORING	19.2	19	
	PUNT RETURNS	7.4	26T	
	KICK RETURNS	23.4	6T	
	RED ZONE TD %	.392	26	

TEAM STATS		LEAGUE RANK	
TOTAL DEFENSE	336.2	21	
AGAINST RUSH	106.4	17	
AGAINST PASS	229.8	24	
PTS. ALLOWED	19.3	9	
INTERCEPTIONS	24	6T	
SACKS	26	30	
TURNOVER DIFF.	+13	3	



**AARON GLENN**  
51 TACKLES 3 INT





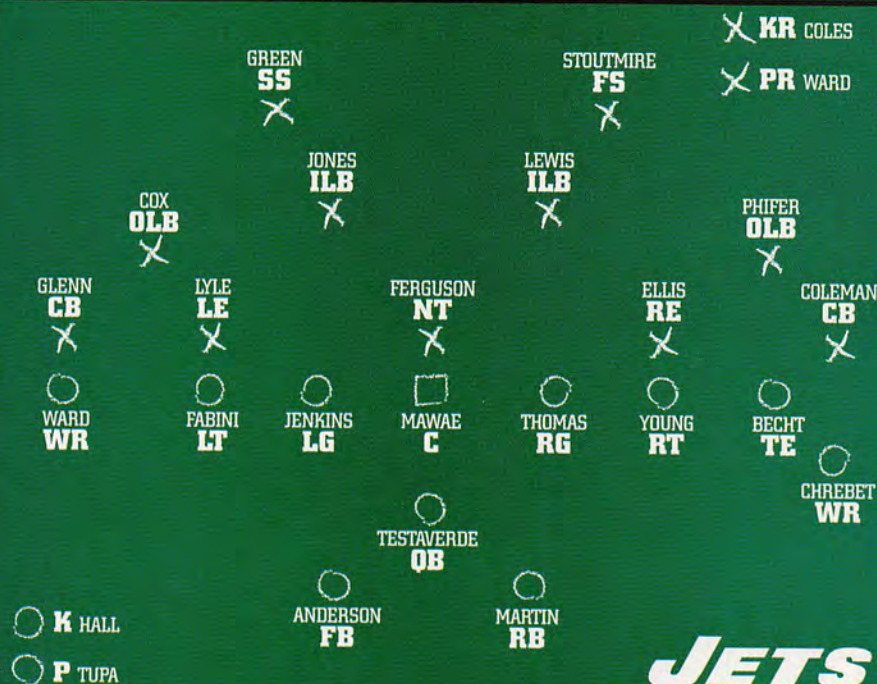
New York's Pro Bowl center Kevin Mawae (above) will be asked to lead a young offensive line, while receiver Wayne Chrebet must take up the slack left by departed Keyshawn Johnson.

upside is that he's the fastest Seminole ever, including Deion Sanders. He could be a game-breaker or a bust. If rookie **Anthony Becht** doesn't start at tight end, he'll still play a lot.

The offensive line is young and reshuffled. **Jason Fabini** moves from right to left tackle with **Ryan Young**, who played often late in the season, at Fabini's old spot. **Randy Thomas**, who started as a rookie, is the right guard, with **Kerry Jenkins** on the left side. Pro Bowler **Kevin Mawae** anchors the line at center.

Defensively, there were only four sacks recorded by Jet ends last season, which means rookie **Shaun Ellis** will be the starting

## PROJECTED STARTERS



**JETS**

## 1999 FINAL STATS

Won 8, Lost 8

DATE	SCORE	
09/12	L 28-30	New England
09/19	L 3-17	at Buffalo
09/26	L 20-27	Washington
10/03	W 21-13	at Denver
10/11	L 6-16	Jacksonville
10/17	L 13-16	Indianapolis
10/24	L 23-24	at Oakland
11/07	W 12-7	Arizona
11/15	W 24-17	at New England
11/21	W 17-7	Buffalo
11/28	L 6-13	at Indianapolis
12/05	L 28-41	at New York Giants
12/12	W 28-20	Miami
12/19	W 22-21	at Dallas
12/27	W 38-31	at Miami
01/02	W 19-9	Seattle

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Martin	367	1464	4.0	50	5
Lucas	41	144	3.5	21	1
Parmalee	27	133	4.9	18	0
Mirer	21	89	4.2	12	1
Anderson	16	84	5.3	16	0
Stone	2	27	13.5	36	0
Tupa	2	8	4.0	4	0
K. Johnson	5	6	1.2	12	0
Sowell	3	5	1.7	3	0
L. Johnson	1	2	2.0	2	0
Ward	1	-1	-1.0	-1	0
Team	486	1961	4.0	50	7
Opponents	430	1703	4.0	36	16

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	LONG	TD
K. Johnson	89	1170	13.1	65	8
Chrebet	48	631	13.1	50t	3
Martin	45	259	5.8	34	0
Anderson	29	302	10.4	29	3
Ward	22	325	14.8	56t	3
Parmalee	15	113	7.5	23	0
Baxter	8	66	8.3	24	2
E. Green	7	37	5.3	10t	2
Early	6	83	13.8	24	0
Spence	3	15	5.0	9	1
Team	272	3001	11.0	65	22
Opponents	319	3860	12.1	80t	16

PASSING	ATT	CMP	YDS	TD	INT
Lucas	272	161	1678	14	6
Mirer	176	95	1062	5	9
Testaverde	15	10	96	1	1
Tupa	11	6	165	2	0
K. Johnson	1	0	0	0	0
Sowell	1	0	0	0	0
Team	476	272	3001	22	16
Opponents	574	319	3860	16	24

### SACKS

Lewis 5.5, Phifer 4.5, Logan 3.0, Farrior 2.0, Mickens 2.0, Pleasant 2.0, Ferguson 1.0, Gordon 1.0, M. Jones 1.0, Lyle 1.0, Ogbogu 1.0, Stoutmire 1.0, Wiltz 1.0,  
Team 26.0, Opponents 37.0



# NEW YORK JETS

Al Groh, head coach

Maurice Carthon, assistant head coach/running backs; Todd Haley, Offensive assistant-quality control; Ray Sugar Bear Hamilton, defensive line coach; Pat Hodgson, offensive assistant/planning-research; John Lott, strength and conditioning; Bill Muir, offensive line; Mike Sweatman, special teams; Mike Nolan, defensive coordinator; Bob Sutton, linebackers



After starter Vinny Testaverde (left) went down with an Achilles injury last season, Ray Lucas turned out to be a pleasant, if unspectacular, surprise as his replacement.



right end and John Abraham, another of the first-round picks, will be used as a designated pass rusher. Jason Ferguson is the nose tackle.

## 'Mo-velous' linebackers

The strength of the defense is the linebacking, with 10-year veterans Mo Lewis and Roman Phifer on the outside and Bryan Cox and Marvin Jones inside. The Jets also hope to finally get something out of James Farrior.

The experiment with over-the-hill Steve Atwater at free safety was abandoned and it's make-do time with journeyman Omar Stoutmire. For that matter, strong safety Victor Green is make-do. The corners, Aaron Glenn and Marcus Coleman, are much stronger. What this bunch will miss most is the direction of Belichick.

Tom Tupa remains among the league's best punters, but kicker John Hall is erratic once he has to line up for a kick 40 yards or beyond. Rookie Coles could be an exciting kick returner.



## 2000 SCHEDULE

WEEK 1	9/3	at Green Bay	4:15
WEEK 2	9/11	NEW ENGLAND	9:00
WEEK 3	9/17	BUFFALO	1:00
WEEK 4	9/24	at Tampa Bay	4:15
WEEK 5	10/1	OPEN DATE	
WEEK 6	10/8	PITTSBURGH	1:00
WEEK 7	10/15	at New England	4:05
WEEK 8	10/23	MIAMI	9:00
WEEK 9	10/29	at Buffalo	1:00
WEEK 10	11/5	DENVER	4:15
WEEK 11	11/12	at Indianapolis	8:20
WEEK 12	11/19	at Miami	4:05
WEEK 13	11/26	CHICAGO	1:00
WEEK 14	12/3	INDIANAPOLIS	4:15
WEEK 15	12/10	at Oakland	8:20
WEEK 16	12/17	DETROIT	1:00
WEEK 17	12/24	at Baltimore	1:00

\*All times Eastern

#	QUARTERBACK	HT	WT	BORN	EXP.	COLLEGE
16	Testaverde, Vinny	QB	6-5	235	11/13/63	13 Miami (FL)
6	Lucas, Ray	QB	6-2	214	08/06/72	4 Rutgers

#	OFFENSIVE LINE	HT	WT	BORN	EXP.	COLLEGE
67	Gisler, Mike	C	6-4	300	08/26/69	7 Houston
68	Mawae, Kevin	C	6-4	305	01/23/71	6 Louisiana State
71	Jenkins, Kerry	G	6-5	305	09/06/73	3 Troy State
69	Fabini, Jason	T	6-7	312	08/25/74	2 Cincinnati
77	Thomas, Randy	G	6-4	301	01/19/76	1 Mississippi State
79	Loverne, David	G	6-3	299	05/22/76	0 San Jose State
63	Machado, J.P.	G	6-5	300	01/06/76	1 Illinois
74	Young, Ryan	T	6-6	330	06/28/76	1 Kansas State
75	Rafferty, Ian	T	6-6	300	09/02/76	1 North Carolina State

#	RUNNING BACKS	HT	WT	BORN	EXP.	COLLEGE
34	Parmalee, Bernie	RB	5-11	210	09/16/67	8 Ball State
20	Anderson, Richie	RB	6-2	230	09/13/71	7 Penn State
28	Martin, Curtis	RB	5-11	210	05/01/73	5 Pittsburgh
32	Johnson, Leon	RB	6-1	218	07/13/74	3 North Carolina
33	Sowell, Jerald	RB	6-0	245	01/21/74	3 Tulane
82	Spence, Blake	RB	6-4	249	06/20/75	2 Oregon
25	Farmer, Robert	RB	5-11	217	03/04/74	1 Notre Dame

#	RECEIVERS	HT	WT	BORN	EXP.	COLLEGE
84	Baxter, Fred	TE	6-3	260	06/14/71	7 Auburn
80	Chrebet, Wayne	WR	5-10	188	08/14/73	5 Hofstra
89	Ward, Dedric	WR	5-9	184	09/29/74	3 Northern Iowa
17	Coleman, Fred	WR	6-0	188	01/31/75	0 Washington

#	DEFENSIVE LINE	HT	WT	BORN	EXP.	COLLEGE
93	Logan, Ernie	DT	6-3	290	05/18/68	8 East Carolina
95	Lyle, Rick	DE	6-5	290	02/26/71	5 Missouri
94	Burton, Shane	DT	6-6	305	01/18/74	4 Tennessee
72	Ferguson, Jason	NT	6-3	305	11/28/74	3 Georgia
97	Boose, Dorian	DE	6-6	292	01/29/74	2 Washington State
99	Ogbogu, Eric	DE	6-4	285	07/18/75	2 Maryland
91	Wiltz, Jason	DT	6-4	310	11/23/76	1 Nebraska
96	O'Sullivan, Dennis	DT	6-3	285	01/28/76	0 Tulane

#	DEFENSIVE BACKS	HT	WT	BORN	EXP.	COLLEGE
45	Smith, Otis	CB	5-11	195	10/22/65	9 Missouri
21	Green, Victor	S	5-9	210	12/08/69	7 Akron
31	Glenn, Aaron	CB	5-9	185	07/16/72	6 Texas A&M
24	Mickens, Ray	CB	5-8	184	01/04/73	4 Texas A&M
42	Coleman, Marcus	CB	6-2	210	05/24/74	4 Texas Tech
30	Hayes, Chris	S	5-11	206	05/07/72	4 Washington State
26	Stoutmire, Omar	S	5-11	198	07/09/74	3 Fresno State
47	Frost, Scott	S	6-3	219	01/04/75	2 Nebraska
23	Williams, Kevin	S	6-0	190	08/04/75	2 Oklahoma State
36	Crutchfield, Buddy	CB	6-0	196	03/07/76	2 North Carolina Central
35	Lee, Del	CB	5-10	187	01/19/76	1 McNeese State

#	LINEBACKERS	HT	WT	BORN	EXP.	COLLEGE
57	Lewis, Mo	LB	6-3	258	10/21/69	9 Georgia
56	Phifer, Roman	LB	6-2	248	03/05/68	9 UCLA
51	Cox, Bryan	LB	6-4	250	02/17/68	9 Western Illinois
54	Gordon, Dwayne	LB	6-1	245	11/02/69	7 New Hampshire
55	Jones, Marvin	LB	6-2	250	06/28/72	6 Florida State
58	Farrior, James	LB	6-2	244	01/06/75	3 Virginia
94	Dailey, Casey	LB	6-3	249	06/11/75	1 Northwestern
50	Syvrd, J.J.	LB	6-3	255	05/10/77	1 Jamestown

#	KICKERS	HT	WT	BORN	EXP.	COLLEGE
7	Tupa, Tom	P	6-4	225	02/06/66	11 Ohio State
9	Hall, John	K	6-2	228	03/17/74	3 Wisconsin

\*roster as of May 15

## 2000 DRAFTEES

RD	PICK	NAME	POS	HT	WT	BORN	COLLEGE
1	12	Ellis, Shaun	DE	6-4	276	06/24/77	Tennessee
1	13	Abraham, John	LB	6-4	252	05/06/78	South Carolina
1	18	Pennington, Chad	QB	6-3	229	06/26/76	Marshall
1	27	Becht, Anthony	TE	6-5	265	08/08/77	West Virginia
3	16	Coles, Laveranues	WR	5-11	190	12/29/77	Florida State
5	14	Hayes, Windrell	WR	5-11	202	12/14/76	Southern California
6	13	Scott, Tony	CB	5-10	193	10/03/76	North Carolina State
7	12	Seals, Richard	DT	6-1	316	03/18/76	Utah





## Post-Jimmy Johnson Dolphins will find tough swimming in AFC East waters this season.

**L**et's see. A coaching chain from Don Shula . . . to Jimmy Johnson . . . to Dave Wannstedt?

A quarterback chain from Bob Griese . . . to Dan Marino . . . to Jay Fiedler?

No wonder the Miami faithful are unsettled and grouchy. The future of the Dolphins appears dim. When opposing defensive coordinators plot against the Dolphins this season, what is there to terrify them? In the Dolphins' case, the term "game-breaker" is more likely to describe an accident.

Like Al Groh with the Jets and Bill Belichick in New England, Wannstedt is a new head coach on the spot. He

got the job mainly because he's Jimmy Johnson's best friend and J.J. brought him to Miami as part of the "feel-good" package he got from owner Wayne Huizenga when he made his false-start retirement after the '98 season. Wannstedt certainly did not get the job off his won-lost record

or decisions on personnel made during his tenure as head coach of the Chicago Bears.

### Defense to be new focus

Wannstedt is a defensive specialist and defense is now Miami's game. But controversy rises there, too. Dolphin defense was a major strength before Wannstedt got to Miami, but he fired George Hill, Johnson's defensive coordinator, as soon as he took command and brought in Jim Bates as the replacement. The defense disintegrated late last season, but that was probably due more to Johnson's refusal to lighten the practice load on his overworked "D" than just poor play. Johnson's Dolphin teams wilted every December of his tenure.

The strength of the defense is in its deep line. Tackles **Tim Bowens** and **Daryl Gardener** are difficult for any opposing running game to move. End **Rich Owens**, signed as a free agent, made a big contribution last season with 8.5 sacks. **Jason Taylor**, who should be the top playmaker in the double-wave of defensive linemen, had a down year with just 2.5 sacks, but **Trace Armstrong**, still going strong at age 34, had 7.5. **Lorenzo Bromell** and **Kenny Mixon** get a lot of playing time.

### Zach attack

The anti-run defense is spearheaded by Pro Bowl middle linebacker **Zach Thomas**, who is the inspirational leader of the team now that Marino is gone. Wannstedt has to

*Damon Huard played well at times in place of Dan Marino last season, but he'll have to beat out free agent Jay Fiedler for the QB job this season.*



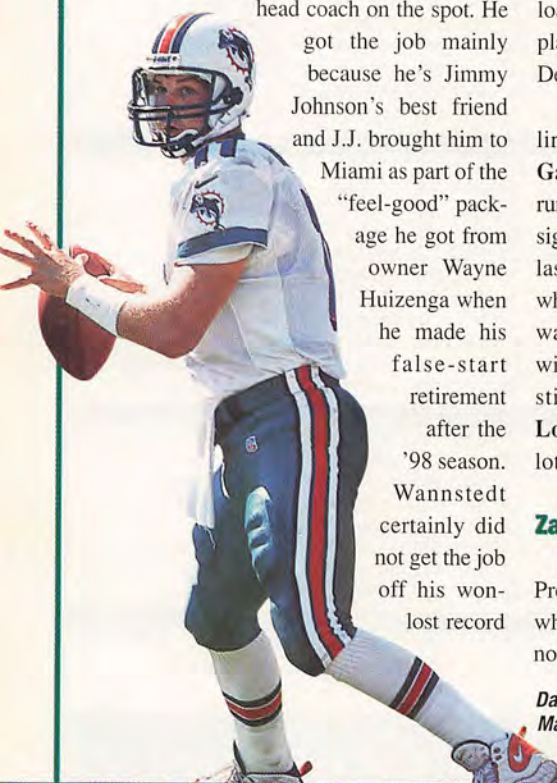
*At age 34, defensive end Trace Armstrong still has much to offer, as he proved last season by registering 7.5 sacks.*

get more out of outside 'backers **Derrick Rodgers** and **Robert Jones**. There isn't much depth at the position.

The cornerbacks, **Sam Madison** and **Patrick Surtain**, are fast and physical. Madison is among the best in the league. Surtain struggled after replacing Terrell Buckley, but there were times when he looked like the prospect whom Johnson traded a No. 1 pick in order to draft in the second round two years ago. Give Madison and Surtain a decent pass rush and they perform at a high level. Rookie **Ben Kelly** is the likely nickel back. The safeties, veterans **Brock Marion** and **Calvin Jackson**, are so-so.

### Fiedler conducts offensive symphony

Fiedler made an impact on the Dolphins when, as Mark Brunell's backup in Jacksonville, he mopped up in the second half of the Jaguars' 62-7 massacre in the playoffs. He threw two touchdown passes while completing seven of 11 throws for 172 yards. That was enough for Wannstedt, who was underwhelmed by what he saw of **Damon Huard**. Undrafted coming out of Dartmouth, this is Fiedler's sixth NFL team. He never started a game until last year.



TEAM STATS		NFL RANK
TOTAL OFFENSE	308.6	20
RUSHING	90.8	22
PASSING	217.8	13T
SCORING	20.4	13
PUNT RETURNS	9.8	13
KICK RETURNS	23.8	4
RED ZONE TD %	.412	23

TEAM STATS		NFL RANK
TOTAL DEFENSE	275.3	5
AGAINST RUSH	92.3	8
AGAINST PASS	183.0	5
PTS. ALLOWED	21.0	19
INTERCEPTIONS	18	14
SACKS	39	17T
TURNOVER DIFF.	-6	23T



**J.J. JOHNSON**  
558 YDS 4 TD



## 1999 FINAL STATS

Won 9, Lost 7

DATE	SCORE	
09/13	W 38-21	at Denver
09/19	W 19-16	Arizona
10/04	L 18-23	Buffalo
10/10	W 34-31	at Indianapolis
10/17	W 31-30	at New England
10/24	W 16-13	Philadelphia
10/31	W 16-9	at Oakland
11/07	W 17-0	Tennessee
11/14	L 3-23	at Buffalo
11/21	W 27-17	New England
11/25	L 0-20	at Dallas
12/05	L 34-37	Indianapolis
12/12	L 20-28	at New York Jets
12/19	W 12-9	San Diego
12/27	L 31-38	New York Jets
01/02	L 10-21	at Washington



Middle linebacker Zach Thomas (left) and cornerback Sam Madison (middle) both made the Pro Bowl last season, while receiver Oronde Gadsden led the Dolphins with six touchdown catches.

This is the Dolphins' third decade attempting to get a running game in consistent gear. After drafting three running backs last year, they still finished 22nd in the league in rushing, and that was with speedy Cecil Collins in the lineup for the first half of the season. Arrested on a felony charge, Collins' Dolphin career was abruptly ended. **J.J. Johnson** was inconsistent but finished as the top ground-gainer with 558 yards. **Lamar Smith** was signed as a free agent and Wannstedt rolled the dice on 34-year-old former Bill **Thurman Thomas**. Rookie **Deon Dyer** of North Carolina will push **Rob Konrad** for the fullback assignment.

Wide receiver **Tony Martin** is the closest thing the Dolphins have to a playmaker, but there weren't many of his 67 catches that came at critical times, especially down the stretch. **O.J. McDuffie's** 43 catches were his fewest since 1994. **Oronde Gadsden**, who led the team with six touchdown receptions, or free-agent pickup **Bert Emanuel** might be more helpful to Fiedler. **Hunter Goodwin** is the tight end of record, but they need better.

The strength of the offensive line is the left side with tackle **Richmond Webb** and guard **Mark Dixon**. The front office was relieved when it re-signed center **Tim Ruddy**. Right guard **Kevin Donnalley** will

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Johnson	164	558	3.4	34	4
Collins	131	414	3.2	25t	2
Pritchett	47	158	3.4	25	1
Huard	28	124	4.4	25	0
Denson	28	98	3.5	20	0
Abdul-Jabbar	28	95	3.4	12	1
Konrad	9	16	1.8	5	0
Jacquet	1	4	4.0	4	0
Zolak	2	-2	-1.0	-1	0
Marino	6	-6	-1.0	0	0
Martin	1	-6	-6.0	-6	0
Team	445	1453	3.3	34	8
Opponents	413	1476	3.6	43	6

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Martin	67	1037	15.5	69t	5
Gadsden	48	803	16.7	62	6
McDuffie	43	516	12.0	34	2
Pritchett	43	312	7.3	30	4
Konrad	34	251	7.4	25	1
Drayton	32	299	9.3	26	1
Green	18	234	13.0	27	0
Johnson	15	100	6.7	17	0
Goodwin	8	55	6.9	14	0
Collins	6	32	5.3	12	0
Denson	4	28	7.0	10	0
Abdul-Jabbar	4	25	6.3	14	0
Perry	3	8	2.7	5	1
McKenzie	2	18	9.0	13	0
Jacquet	1	18	18.0	18	0
Huard	1	0	0.0	0	0
Team	329	3736	11.4	69t	20
Opponents	256	3168	12.4	68t	19

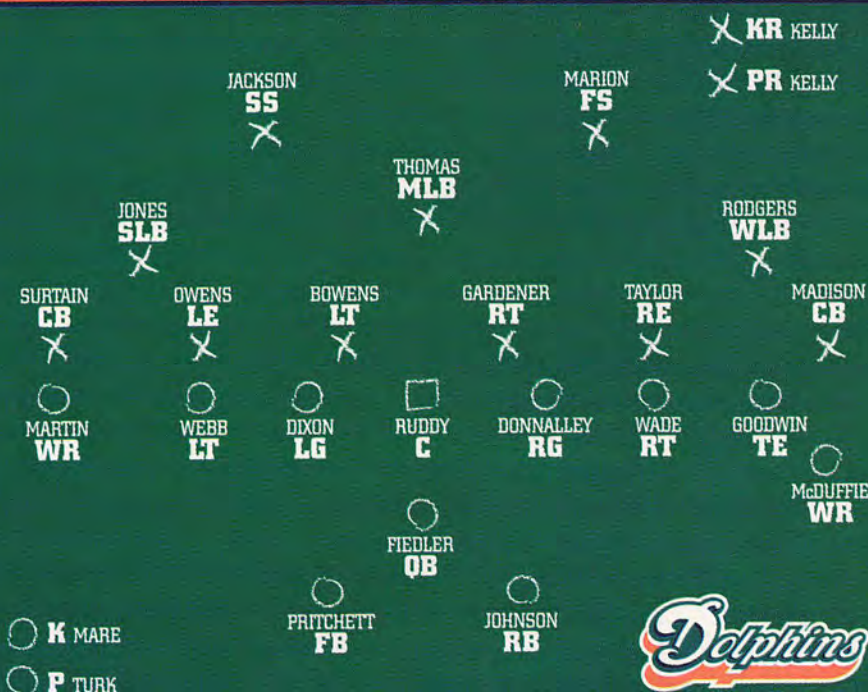
PASSING	ATT	CMP	YDS	TD	INT
Marino	369	204	2448	12	17
Huard	216	125	1288	8	4
Zolak	4	0	0	0	0
Team	589	329	3736	20	21
Opponents	484	256	3168	19	18

### SACKS

Owens 8.5, Armstrong 7.5, Bromell 5.0, Gardener 5.0, Wilson 3.0, Taylor 2.5, Surtain 2.0, Bowens 1.5, Buckley 1.0, Jackson 1.0, Marion 1.0, Z. Thomas 1.0

Team 39.0, Opponents 37.0

## PROJECTED STARTERS







The Dolphins signed former Buffalo All-Pro Thurman Thomas (top) to become their third-down back. Meanwhile, Tony Martin will continue to be Miami's main receiving threat. He tallied 67 catches and 1,037 receiving yards in '99.

be challenged by ex-Patriot **Heath Irwin**. **Todd Wade**, a 6-8, 325-pound rookie from Ole Miss, should press **James Brown** at right tackle.

Ex-Cowboys head coach **Chan Gailey** was brought in as the new offensive coordinator. He has a lot of work ahead of him.

Placekicker **Olindo Mare** had a great season with 39 field goals in 44 attempts. He produced a large portion of the scoring and was voted the offensive MVP. **Kelly**, who had six returns for scores at Colorado, should put more punch in the return game. **Matt Turk** is the new punter.



## MIAMI DOLPHINS

Dave Wannstedt, head coach

**Jim Bates**, defensive coordinator; **Doug Blevins**, kicking; **Paul Boudreau**, offensive line coach; **Clarence Brooks**, defensive line; **Joel Collier**, running backs; **Robert Ford**, Receivers; **Chan Gailey**, offensive coordinator; **John Gamble**, strength and conditioning; **Pat Jones**, tight ends; **Les Koenning**, offensive staff assistant; **Bill Lewis**, defensive nickel package; **Rich McGeorge**, assistant offensive line; **Mel Phillips**, secondary; **Brad Roll**, assistant strength and conditioning; **Randy Shannon**, defensive assistant; **Mike Shula**, quarterbacks; **Mike Westhoff**, special teams

#	QUARTERBACK	HT	WT	BORN	EXP.	COLLEGE
14	Zolak, Scott	QB 6-5	235	12/13/67	8	Maryland
11	Fiedler, Jay	QB 6-2	217	12/29/71	2	Dartmouth
16	Druckmiller, Jim	QB 6-5	234	09/19/72	2	Virginia Tech
11	Huard, Damon	QB 6-3	215	07/09/73	2	Washington

#	OFFENSIVE LINE	HT	WT	BORN	EXP.	COLLEGE
65	Donnalley, Kevin	G 6-5	310	06/10/68	9	North Carolina
78	Webb, Richmond	T 6-6	315	01/11/67	10	Texas A&M
76	Brown, James	T 6-6	325	01/03/70	7	Virginia State
61	Ruddy, Tim	C 6-3	300	04/27/72	6	Notre Dame
60	Bock, John	C 6-3	295	02/11/71	5	Indiana State
63	Irwin, Heath	G 6-4	300	06/27/73	3	Colorado
68	Sheldon, Mike	T 6-4	305	06/08/73	3	Grand Valley State
74	Smith, Brent	T 6-5	315	11/21/73	2	Mississippi State
63	Dixon, Mark	G 6-4	300	11/26/70	2	Virginia
62	Ruegamer, Grey	C 6-5	310	06/01/76	0	Arizona State

#	RUNNING BACKS	HT	WT	BORN	EXP.	COLLEGE
34	Thomas, Thurman	RB 5-10	198	05/16/66	12	Oklahoma State
26	Smith, Lamar	RB 5-11	218	11/29/70	6	Houston
32	Alexander, Curtis	RB 5-11	199	06/11/74	0	Alabama
32	Johnson, J.J.	RB 6-1	230	04/24/74	1	Mississippi State
44	Konrad, Rob	RB 6-3	255	11/12/76	1	Syracuse
21	Denson, Autry	RB 5-10	193	12/08/76	1	Notre Dame
37	Edwards, Brian	RB 6-1	220	06/06/76	0	East Tennessee State

#	RECEIVERS	HT	WT	BORN	EXP.	COLLEGE
80	Martin, Tony	WR 6-1	175	09/05/65	10	Mesa State
81	McDuffie, O.J.	WR 5-10	194	12/02/69	7	Penn State
83	Goodwin, Hunter	TE 6-5	270	10/10/72	4	Texas A&M
86	Gadsden, Oronde	WR 6-2	216	08/20/71	2	Winston-Salem
87	Green, Yatil	WR 6-2	205	11/25/73	1	Miami (FL)
88	Jacquet, Nate	WR 6-0	185	09/02/75	3	San Diego State
89	Perry, Ed	TE 6-4	265	09/01/74	3	James Madison
17	Doxzon, Todd	WR 6-1	186	03/28/75	1	Iowa State
82	McKenzie, Kevin	WR 5-9	187	09/20/75	1	Washington State
15	Thomas, Corey	WR 5-10	174	06/06/75	1	Duke

#	DEFENSIVE LINE	HT	WT	BORN	EXP.	COLLEGE
93	Armstrong, Trace	DE 6-4	270	10/05/65	11	Florida
95	Bowens, Tim	DT 6-4	315	02/07/73	6	Mississippi
96	Owens, Rich	DT 6-6	175	05/22/72	4	Lehigh
92	Gardener, Daryl	DT 6-6	315	02/25/73	4	Baylor
99	Taylor, Jason	DE 6-6	260	09/01/74	3	Akron
79	Mixon, Kenny	DE 6-4	282	03/31/75	2	Louisiana State
91	Bromell, Lorenzo	DT 6-6	270	09/23/75	2	Clemson
98	Simpson, Antoine	DT 6-2	310	12/07/76	1	Houston

#	DEFENSIVE BACKS	HT	WT	BORN	EXP.	COLLEGE
25	Jeffries, Greg	CB 5-9	195	10/16/71	7	Virginia
31	Marion, Brock	S 5-11	205	06/11/70	7	Nevada
38	Jackson, Calvin	S 5-9	185	10/28/72	6	Auburn
24	Wilson, Jerry	CB 5-10	187	07/17/73	4	Southern University
25	Walker, Brian	S 6-1	198	05/31/72	4	Washington State
29	Madison, Sam	CB 5-11	185	04/23/74	3	Louisville
23	Surtain, Patrick	CB 5-11	190	05/19/76	2	Southern Mississippi
28	Hill, Raymond	CB 6-0	195	08/07/75	2	Michigan State

#	LINEBACKERS	HT	WT	BORN	EXP.	COLLEGE
52	Jones, Robert	LB 6-3	245	09/27/69	8	East Carolina
54	Thomas, Zach	LB 5-11	235	09/01/73	4	Texas Tech
53	Izzo, Larry	LB 5-10	228	09/26/74	3	Rice
52	Galyon, Scott	LB 6-2	245	03/23/74	4	Tennessee
59	Rodgers, Derrick	LB 6-1	220	10/14/71	3	Arizona State
98	Russell, Twan	LB 6-2	219	04/25/74	3	Miami (FL)

#	KICKERS	HT	WT	BORN	EXP.	COLLEGE
1	Turk, Matt	P 6-5	237	06/16/68	5	Wisconsin-Whitewater
10	Mare, Olindo	K 5-10	190	06/06/73	3	Syracuse
7	Hanson, Chris	P 6-1	210	10/25/76	1	Marshall

\*roster as of May 15

## 2000 DRAFTEES

RD	PICK	NAME	POS	HT	WT	BORN	COLLEGE
2	22	Wade, Todd	T	6-8	325	10/30/76	Mississippi
3	22	Kelly, Ben	CB	5-8	184	09/15/78	Colorado
4	23	Dyer, Deon	RB	6-0	245	10/02/77	North Carolina
5	23	Freeman, Arturo	S	6-1	196	10/27/76	South Carolina
6	1	Grant, Earnest	DT	6-5	315	—	Arkansas-Pine Bluff
7	26	Harris, Jeff	CB	6-0	189	07/19/77	Georgia

\*All times Eastern



## 2000 SCHEDULE

WEEK				
WEEK 1	9/3	SEATTLE	4:15	
WEEK 2	9/10	at Minnesota	1:00	
WEEK 3	9/17	BALTIMORE	8:20	
WEEK 4	9/24	NEW ENGLAND	1:00	
WEEK 5	10/1	at Cincinnati	4:05	
WEEK 6	10/8	BUFFALO	1:00	
WEEK 7	10/15	OPEN DATE		
WEEK 8	10/23	at N.Y. Jets	9:00	
WEEK 9	10/29	GREEN BAY	1:00	
WEEK 10	11/5	at Detroit	1:00	
WEEK 11	11/12	at San Diego	4:05	
WEEK 12	11/19	N.Y. JETS	4:05	
WEEK 13	11/26	at Indianapolis	1:00	
WEEK 14	12/3	at Buffalo	1:00	
WEEK 15	12/10	TAMPA BAY	1:00	
WEEK 16	12/17	INDIANAPOLIS	4:15	
WEEK 17	12/24	at New England	1:00	





### Stagnant Patriots' hopes rest with the defense and a Bledsoe revival.

**T**he question in New England is whether Bill Belichick learned from the mistakes of his first coaching job in Cleveland or whether the Patriots made one of their monumental mistakes in hiring him.

Belichick proved himself as a valuable second banana under Bill Parcells with the Giants, Patriots and Jets. In his sole head-coaching job, with the "old" Browns, he was anti-social, moody, a terrible communicator and devoid of people skills. In other words, a disaster in most of the job qualifications a head coach needs to have beyond Xs and Os. Even as Parcells' chief lieutenant, Belichick found it difficult to relate to either his players or fellow assistant coaches.

Obviously owner Bob Kraft thinks Belichick will make good on his second chance since the future of the of the Patriots rides on his hiring.

Judging from the way he ripped apart his offense as soon as he took command, it's apparent Belichick doesn't think the Pats can contend this season. They will go only as far as their talented defense will carry them. For starters, Belichick must replace two starting offensive tackles, including longtime star Bruce Armstrong; tight end Ben Coates, quarterback **Drew Bledsoe's** security blanket; starting guard Heath Irwin; the starting running back, Terry Allen; and starting wide receiver Shawn Jefferson.

#### Drew's clues

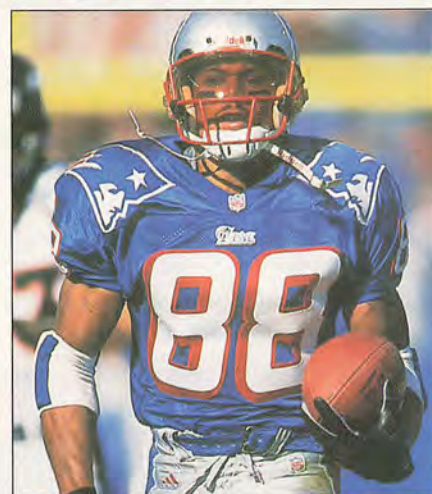
That's a lot of positions to fortify, especially since the top individual goal is to rebuild the confidence of quarterback Bledsoe to something approaching his seasons with the Pats' Super Bowl team. He is coming off his lowest passing-efficiency rating in four years and his most interceptions (21) since he was a pro sophomore. To supervise Bledsoe's recycling, Belichick brought Charlie Weis from the Jets as his offensive coordinator and hired Dick Rehbein as quarterback coach. Weis was also Parcells' offensive coordinator.

Bledsoe will have to get acquainted with a new set of passing-game collaborators. Coates, his most reliable target for years, was cut. His replacement is **Eric Bjornson**, who caught 10 passes as a Dallas backup. Jefferson signed with Atlanta, forcing under-achieving **Tony Simmons** into the starting lineup. The only familiar face belongs to the gifted **Terry Glenn**, whose 69 catches averaged 16.6 yards, but he plays well only when the mood is upon him. In the stretch race for a wild-card berth, when New England lost three of its last four games, Glenn caved in. No wide receivers were drafted. Veteran **Troy Brown** is coming off a 36-catch season.

#### Questions surround running game

The release of Terry Allen, who led the Pats in rushing with 896 yards and touchdowns with nine, leaves veteran free-agent pickup **Raymont Harris** and **Kevin Faulk**, who did not excite as a rookie, to fight for the vacancy. The draft brings speedy **J.R. Redmond** of Arizona State. Some scouts thought he was too much like Faulk, who is more of a third-down back. But he was Arizona State's offensive MVP three times and he could give the Pats an outside running option. With the offensive line in a shambles, fullback **Tony Carter** will earn his money as a blocker.

**Max Lane**, undistinguished as a previous starting tackle or guard, is the replacement for departed Bruce Armstrong at left tackle. The veterans are right guard **Todd Rucci** and center **Damien Woody**, last year's top draftee who played well as a rookie. Rookie **Adrian Klemm**, this year's top draftee, could start at right tackle. Since Belichick comes from the Jets, who started three rookies in the



Both quarterback Drew Bledsoe (top) and feature receiver Terry Glenn had disappointing outings in 1999. Glenn caught 37 passes in the first five games but only 32 the rest of the way.

offensive line last year, another freshman, **Greg Robinson-Randall** of Michigan State, could eventually be the man at left guard.

#### Law school

Defensively, the picture is much brighter. Offensive starters were cut so that well-regarded strong safety **Lawyer Milloy** could

### NUMBERS

TEAM STATS		NFL RANK
TOTAL OFFENSE	316.4	18
RUSHING	89.1	23
PASSING	227.3	10
SCORING	18.7	20T
PUNT RETURNS	10.3	9T
KICK RETURNS	24.2	2
RED ZONE TD %	.370	27

TEAM STATS		NFL RANK
TOTAL DEFENSE	300.5	8
AGAINST RUSH	112.2	21
AGAINST PASS	188.3	7
PTS. ALLOWED	17.8	7
INTERCEPTIONS	16	17T
SACKS	42	11
TURNOVER DIFF.	-2	15T



**CHRIS SLADE**  
94 TACKLES 4.5 SACKS





The Patriots' strength is their secondary, where sixth-year cornerback Ty Law (left) and fifth-year safety Lawyer Milloy are already among the league's elite at their positions. Milloy led New England with four interceptions last year.

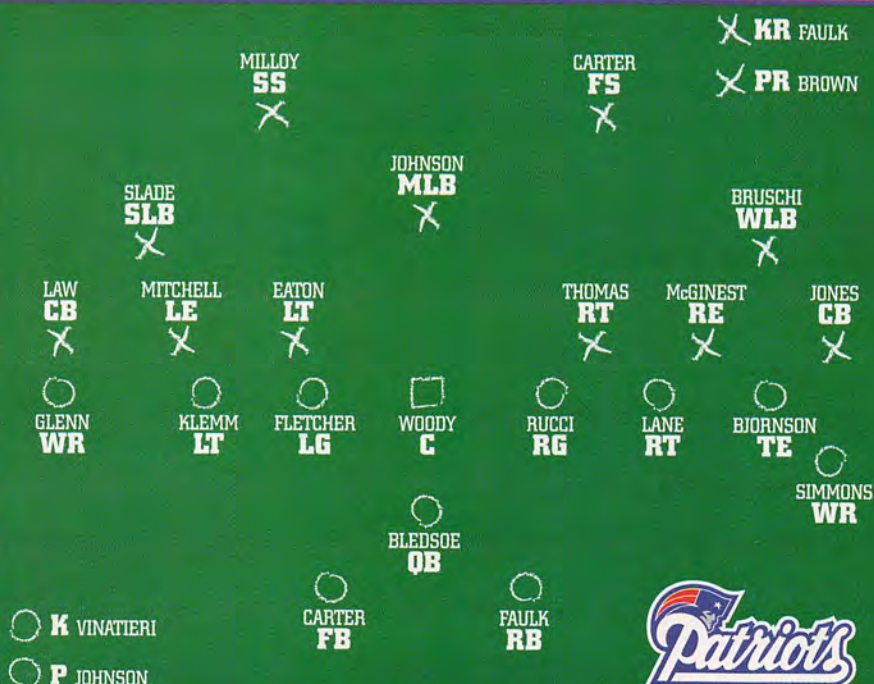
be re-signed. He and left corner Ty Law are Pro Bowlers. Chris Carter is the free safety, but left corner is dicey if Tebucky Jones can't justify his being drafted in the first round two years ago.

The linebacking is stable and strong, especially when Ted Johnson is healthy and policing the middle. Chris Slade is a veteran with a lot of moxie at left outside linebacker.

Right linebacker Tedy Bruschi is the sort of player Belichick likes to use as a "spy" against some teams and as an all-out blitzing against others. If Andy Katzenmoyer makes up for his shaky rookie year, the new coach will find work for him, too.

The line is troublesome. The best is right end Willie McGinest, if he can stay healthy. He had nine sacks, twice what the next-best

## PROJECTED STARTERS



## 1999 FINAL STATS

Won 8, Lost 8

DATE	SCORE	
09/12	W 30-28	at New York Jets
09/19	W 31-28	Indianapolis
09/26	W 16-14	New York Giants
10/03	W 19-7	at Cleveland
10/10	L 14-16	at Kansas City
10/17	L 30-31	Miami
10/24	W 24-23	Denver
10/31	W 27-3	at Arizona
11/15	L 17-24	New York Jets
11/21	L 17-27	at Miami
11/28	L 7-17	at Buffalo
12/05	W 13-6	Dallas
12/12	L 15-20	at Indianapolis
12/19	L 9-24	at Philadelphia
12/26	L 10-13	Buffalo
01/02	W 20-3	Baltimore

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Allen	254	896	3.5	39	8
Faulk	67	227	3.4	43	1
Warren	35	120	3.4	18	0
Bledsoe	42	101	2.4	25	0
T. Carter	6	26	4.3	9	0
Shaw	9	23	2.6	12	0
L. Johnson	2	13	6.5	13	0
Floyd	6	12	2.0	6	0
Ellison	2	10	5.0	8	0
C. Carter	0	0	—	—	0
Friesz	2	-2	-1.0	-1	0
Team	425	1426	3.4	43	9
Opponents	486	1795	3.7	60	6

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Glenn	69	1147	16.6	67	4
Jefferson	40	698	17.5	68t	6
Brown	36	471	13.1	37	1
Coates	32	370	11.6	27	2
Warren	29	262	9.0	21	1
T. Carter	20	108	5.4	20	0
Simmons	19	276	14.5	58t	2
Brisby	18	266	14.8	40	0
Allen	14	125	8.9	38	1
Faulk	12	98	8.2	19	1
Rutledge	7	66	9.4	13	0
Ellison	4	50	12.5	23	0
Shaw	2	31	15.5	29	0
Floyd	2	16	8.0	11	0
Bartrum	1	1	1.0	1t	1
Team	305	3985	13.1	68t	19
Opponents	293	3281	11.2	69t	23

PASSING	ATT	CMP	YDS	TD	INT
Bledsoe	539	305	3985	19	21
Brown	1	0	0	0	0
Warren	0	0	0	0	0
Team	540	305	3985	19	21
Opponents	520	293	3281	23	16

### SACKS

McGinest 9.0, Slade 4.5, Katzenmoyer 3.5, Eaton 3.0, Mitchell 3.0, Thomas 3.0, Whigham 3.0, Bruschi 2.0, Collons 2.0, T. Johnson 2.0, Milloy 2.0, C. Carter 1.0, Israel 1.0, Serwanga 1.0, Sullivan 1.0, Law 0.5, Spires 0.5

Team 42.0, Opponents 56.0



Patriot produced. Left tackle **Chad Eaton** needs to give the Pats the sort of season he had two years ago. Right tackle **Henry Thomas** may have too much mileage on him. Left end **Brandon Mitchell** brings nothing to the pass rush.

Faulk was fourth in the AFC in kickoff returns. **Adam Vinatieri** kicked 26 field goals but missed some clutch kicks. **Lee Johnson** was solid as the punter. Brown and Redmond will return punts.



Veteran Troy Brown (above) was a welcome addition to the passing game with 36 receptions last season. The Pats brought in free agent Raymont Harris (right) to compete with Kevin Faulk for the tailback job.



## 2000 SCHEDULE

WEEK			
WEEK 1	9/3	TAMPA BAY	1:00
WEEK 2	9/11	at N.Y. Jets	9:00
WEEK 3	9/17	MINNESOTA	4:15
WEEK 4	9/24	at Miami	1:00
WEEK 5	10/1	at Denver	4:05
WEEK 6	10/8	INDIANAPOLIS	1:00
WEEK 7	10/15	N.Y. JETS	4:05
WEEK 8	10/22	at Indianapolis	1:00
WEEK 9	10/29	OPEN DATE	
WEEK 10	11/5	BUFFALO	1:00
WEEK 11	11/12	at Cleveland	1:00
WEEK 12	11/19	CINCINNATI	1:00
WEEK 13	11/23	at Detroit	12:30
WEEK 14	12/4	KANSAS CITY	9:00
WEEK 15	12/10	at Chicago	1:00
WEEK 16	12/17	at Buffalo	1:00
WEEK 17	12/24	MIAMI	1:00

\*All times Eastern

## NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS

Bill Belichick, head coach

Ivan Fears, wide receivers; Eric Mangini, defensive assistant/quality control; Dick Rehbein, quarterbacks; Rob Ryan, linebackers coach; Dante Scarnecchia, assistant head coach/offensive line; Charlie Weis, offensive coordinator/wide receivers

#	QUARTERBACK	HT	WT	BORN	EXP.	COLLEGE
17	Friesz, John	QB 6-4	223	05/19/67	9	Idaho
11	Bledsoe, Drew	QB 6-5	233	02/14/72	7	Washington State
7	Bishop, Michael	QB 6-2	217	05/15/76	1	Kansas State
#	OFFENSIVE LINE	HT	WT	BORN	EXP.	COLLEGE
71	Rucci, Todd	G 6-5	296	07/14/70	7	Penn State
68	Lane, Max	G 6-6	320	02/22/71	6	Navy
53	Scott, Lance	C 6-3	285	02/15/72	3	Utah
79	Williams, Grant	T 6-7	323	05/10/74	4	Louisiana Tech
66	Ellis, Edward	T 6-7	330	10/13/75	3	Buffalo
67	Andersen, Jason	C 6-6	295	09/03/75	1	Brigham Young
65	Woody, Damien	C 6-3	319	11/03/77	1	Boston College
64	Fletcher, Derrick	T 6-6	348	09/09/75	0	Baylor
#	RUNNING BACKS	HT	WT	BORN	EXP.	COLLEGE
29	Harris, Raymont	RB 6-0	226	12/23/70	5	Ohio State
30	Carter, Tony	RB 6-0	232	08/23/72	6	Minnesota
47	Edwards, Robert	RB 5-11	218	10/02/74	1	Georgia
44	Shaw, Harold	RB 6-0	228	09/03/74	2	Southern Mississippi
37	Floyd, Chris	RB 6-2	235	06/23/75	2	Michigan
33	Faulk, Kevin	RB 5-8	197	06/15/76	1	LSU
#	RECEIVERS	HT	WT	BORN	EXP.	COLLEGE
82	Brisby, Vincent	WR 6-3	193	01/25/71	7	Northeast Louisiana
80	Brown, Troy	WR 5-10	190	07/02/71	7	Marshall
80	Bailey, Aaron	WR 5-10	183	10/24/71	5	Louisville
86	Bjornson, Eric	TE 6-4	236	12/15/71	5	Washington
88	Glenn, Terry	WR 5-11	185	07/23/74	4	Ohio State
81	Simmons, Tony	WR 5-11	206	12/08/74	2	Wisconsin
83	Rutledge, Rod	TE 6-5	262	08/12/75	2	Alabama
85	Morey, Sean	WR 5-11	190	02/26/76	1	Brown
#	DEFENSIVE LINE	HT	WT	BORN	EXP.	COLLEGE
95	Thomas, Henry	DT 6-2	277	01/12/65	13	Louisiana State
55	McGinest, Willie	DE 6-5	265	12/11/71	6	Southern California
90	Eaton, Chad	DT 6-5	300	04/04/72	4	Washington State
98	Mitchell, Brandon	DE 6-3	289	06/19/75	3	Texas A&M
94	Spires, Greg	DE 6-1	265	08/12/74	2	Florida State
#	DEFENSIVE BACKS	HT	WT	BORN	EXP.	COLLEGE
25	Whigham, Larry	S 6-2	205	06/23/72	6	Northeast Louisiana
24	Law, Ty	CB 5-11	200	02/10/74	5	Michigan
36	Milloy, Lawyer	S 6-0	208	11/14/73	4	Washington
42	Carter, Chris	S 6-2	209	09/27/74	3	Texas
34	Jones, Tebucky	CB 6-2	219	10/06/74	2	Syracuse
31	Serwanga, Kato	CB 6-0	198	07/23/76	1	California
41	George, Tony	S 5-11	200	08/10/75	1	Florida
32	Cherry, J'Juan	CB 5-11	200	10/28/76	0	Arizona State
#	LINEBACKERS	HT	WT	BORN	EXP.	COLLEGE
53	Slade, Chris	LB 6-5	245	01/30/71	7	Virginia
52	Johnson, Ted	LB 6-4	250	12/04/72	5	Colorado
54	Bruschi, Tedy	LB 6-1	245	06/09/73	4	Arizona
59	Katzenmoyer, Andy	LB 6-3	255	12/02/77	1	Ohio State
96	Megna, Marc	LB 6-2	245	07/30/76	0	Richmond
#	KICKERS	HT	WT	BORN	EXP.	COLLEGE
10	Johnson, Lee	P 6-2	200	11/27/61	15	Brigham Young
4	Vinatieri, Adam	K 6-0	200	12/28/72	4	South Dakota State

\*roster as of May 15

## 2000 DRAFTEES

RD	PICK	NAME	POS	HT	WT	BORN	COLLEGE
2	15	Klemm, Adrian	T	6-4	306	05/21/77	Hawaii
3	14	Redmond, J.R.	RB	5-11	210	09/28/77	Arizona State
4	33	Robinson-Randall, Greg	T	6-6	333	06/23/78	Michigan State
5	12	Stachelski, Dave	TE	6-3	252		Boise State
5	32	Marriott, Jeff	DT	6-5	300	03/03/77	Missouri
6	21	Harris, Antwan	CB	5-10	185	05/29/77	Virginia
6	33	Brady, Tom	QB	6-4	211	08/03/77	Michigan
6	35	Nugent, David	DT	6-4	305	10/27/77	Purdue
7	20	Tisdale, Casey	LB	6-4	251	06/18/76	New Mexico
7	33	Pass, Patrick	RB	5-11	213	12/31/77	Georgia





## Talented Jaguars favored, but need to solve a Titan-ic problem to cash in on their enormous potential.

By Larry Felser, *Buffalo News*

**T**he Jacksonville Jaguars are like a beauty queen with just one imperfection: a large carbuncle on the tip of the nose. In Jacksonville's case, the imperfection is the Tennessee Titans. The Jags can't seem to beat them, even on their home turf.

Jacksonville's window of opportunity may be closing soon. Its tight salary cap will confront them in February. The division is also getting much tighter. Tennessee remains the largest roadblock, but Baltimore will be better. Cincinnati should flex some muscles late in the season and Cleveland will no longer be an automatic victory. Pittsburgh's fate depends upon the rehabilitation of quarterback Kordell Stewart's psyche.

### Jacksonville Jaguars

The Jaguars are well-coached, their front office has an eye for talent and their overall personnel may be the best-balanced in the league. Nevertheless, they are like the star hurdler who stumbles over the last barrier in the race. They must get over being "next year's champions."

### Tennessee Titans

The Titans finished a mere yard away from victory in the Super Bowl. There can't be much more impetus than that. They're still young and their magical run down the stretch produced an enormous amount of self-confidence.

### Baltimore Ravens

The Ravens have become an aspiring young team and helped themselves enough offensively to be a factor in a tight division race.

What had been a limp attack has been stiffened by the addition of Shannon Sharpe, Denver's all-time tight end. The drafting of running back Jamal Lewis and wide receiver Travis Taylor should have an impact on the Ravens' firepower.

### Cincinnati Bengals

Everyone wants to bail out on the losingest franchise of the '90s, but with Akili Smith at quarterback and the addition of Peter Warrick there is enough young talent on the roster to at least make some mischief this season.

### Pittsburgh Steelers


When the only new hope is a rookie wide receiver, Plaxico Burress, things look dim for the Steelers, who have been in a morass for a year and a half. Coach Bill Cowher may be one of the few in Pittsburgh who still thinks Stewart can be a viable NFL quarterback, but nevertheless he is back to being No. 1. Cowher's popularity has dropped like a stone in his hometown and he can't afford any more disastrous decisions.

### Cleveland Browns

The Browns paid attention to defense in the offseason, signing end Keith McKenzie of Green Bay, tackle Orpheus Roye of Pittsburgh and free safety Percy Ellsworth of the Giants, while passing up receiver Peter Warrick to make Penn State defensive end Courtney Brown the No. 1 pick in the draft. Not a bad idea since Cleveland finished dead last in the NFL in overall defense and defense against the run.

Not that the offense, with franchise quarterback Tim Couch the focal point, is on the upswing. Improvement in Cleveland means the attack scored a third of its 217 points in the final three games.



TOP PLAYERS	
<b>OFFENSE:</b> Eddie George, RB Tennessee Titans	
<b>DEFENSE:</b> Jevon Kearse, DE Tennessee Titans	
<b>NEWCOMER:</b> Shannon Sharpe, TE Baltimore Ravens	





## It's hard to find any holes in still-young Jaguars, who appear prepared to make first Super Bowl trip.

**T**he Jaguars have the quarterback, the running back and the receivers, along with the best set of offensive tackles in football and a stellar defense. What they didn't have a year ago was a victory over Tennessee in three attempts, including two in Jacksonville.

Forget about the matchups. It's what gets into the Jaguars' heads that counts. The Titans beat them in Jacksonville in 1998 when they were the Tennessee Oilers. They beat them in Jacksonville in 1996 when they were the Houston Oilers. Jeff Fisher, the Titans' coach, has taken to calling AllTel Stadium "our second home."



Jimmy Smith, who led the NFL with 116 receptions, was one of seven Jaguars to make the Pro Bowl in 1999.

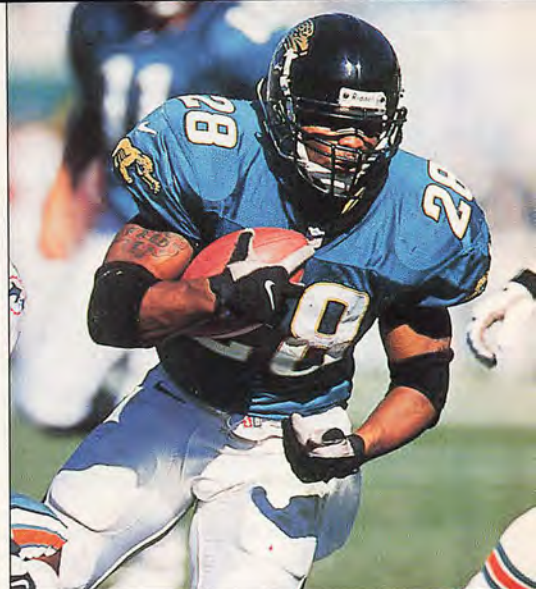
The last three seasons the Jaguars have been 36-22. They haven't had a losing record since they were expansion rookies in 1995. Built intelligently, there should have been a Super Bowl for them in there somewhere. Instead, Tennessee went to the last Super

Bowl and almost won it. Their best chance may be approaching. This is still a young team. Wide receiver **Jimmy Smith**, 31, is the oldest offensive starter. The only defensive starters over 30 are **Carnell Lake**, 33, the canny free safety, and new middle line-backer **Hardy Nickerson**, 35.

### 'Taylor-made' running game

The running game, No. 1 in the AFC, makes the offense move. This season will be different in that **Fred Taylor** is on his own. His partner and last year's leading ground gainer with 931 yards, James Stewart, signed with Detroit. Taylor missed a lot of time with injuries last year. He also missed three games in his big rookie season, 1998, casting some doubt on his durability. When he's healthy, he's dynamite. Despite his injuries Taylor averaged 4.6 yards on his 159 carries, the same average he had with more than 100 additional carries in '98. He also had a 90-yard touchdown run in the playoffs. **Tavian Banks**, who got less work than he did as a rookie, is the only experienced backup.

**Mark Brunell**, the only No. 1 quarterback the Jaguars have ever known, battled injuries but still threw for 3,060 yards and 14 touchdowns. Like his team, Brunell is judged on what he does in games against Tennessee. The Jaguars held a 14-10 lead over the Titans at halftime of the AFC Championship Game but never scored another point. Brunell was intercepted twice and failed to come up with a big play. Jacksonville is noted for developing backup quarterbacks, then losing them. Rob Johnson now starts in Buffalo and Jay Fiedler, last year's No. 2, signed with Miami.



The Jaguars hope to keep dynamic back Fred Taylor healthy this year. He missed six games last season and gained just 732 yards.

### Soward to stretch field

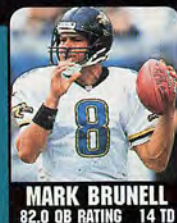
The Jags do not want for good receivers. Smith led the NFL with 116 catches. **Keenan McCardell** had 78. The per-catch average of each dropped by two yards, which is why coach Tom Coughlin made the acquisition of a third wide receiver a draft priority. Drafting 29th, Coughlin took a gamble on Southern Cal's **R. Jay Soward**, described by some scouts as moody, uncoachable, inconsistent and too small for heavy-duty work. The pluses, however, outweigh the negatives. Soward is big-play fast, so quick he can beat press coverage coming off the line, and he's a terror after the catch. Coughlin should take care of the uncoachable part. Smith and McCardell have the size, so Soward's main job will be to get open deep.

At tight end **Kyle Brady** played better for the Jaguars than he did the Jets. **Damon Jones**, tough to cover close to the goal line, caught four touchdown passes and he may get a bigger workload this season.

## NUMBERS

TEAM STATS	NFL RANK
TOTAL OFFENSE	349.1 7
RUSHING	130.7 1
PASSING	218.4 12
SCORING	24.8 6
PUNT RETURNS	10.3 9T
KICK RETURNS	19.2 25
RED ZONE TD %	.460 18

TEAM STATS	NFL RANK
TOTAL DEFENSE	270.9 4
AGAINST RUSH	90.3 6T
AGAINST PASS	180.6 3
PTS. ALLOWED	13.6 1
INTERCEPTIONS	19 12T
SACKS	57 1T
TURNOVER DIFF.	+12 4T



**MARK BRUNELL**  
82.0 QB RATING 14 TD





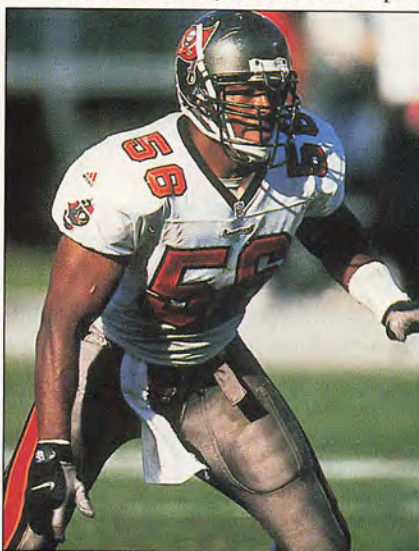
Jacksonville has the top set of tackles in the NFL in Tony Boselli (above) and Leon Searcy.

Jacksonville's biggest physical handicap in the AFC title game was that **Tony Boselli**, the best left tackle in the game, suffered a knee injury in the final regular-season game and was unable to play. **Leon Searcy** is Pro Bowl caliber at right tackle. The interior is not up to those standards, if left guard **Ben Coleman** can't be signed. Since Rich Tylski signed with the Steelers, Coughlin may have to use rookie **Brad Meester**, a center in college. **Zach Weigert** is the right guard and **John Wade** the center.

### Sack attack

Defensively, the Jaguars allowed the fewest yards in the NFL. No small part of that was 57 sacks, which tied the Rams for tops in the NFL. The AFC Central is the pass-rush division. Three of the top four sacking teams in the AFC were Jacksonville, Tennessee and Baltimore.

Right end **Tony Brackens**, who finally blossomed, was Jacksonville's leading sacker with a dozen. Free-agent left tackle **Gary Walker** had 10, although his play slipped in the second half. He's still a rock against the run. Right tackle will be a combination of **Seth Payne** and **Larry Smith**, a better pass



Jacksonville signed Pro Bowler Hardy Nickerson away from Tampa Bay to boost its LB corps.

## 1999 FINAL STATS

Won 14, Lost 2

DATE	SCORE	
09/12	W 41-3	San Francisco
09/19	W 22-20	at Carolina
09/26	L 19-20	Tennessee
10/03	W 17-3	at Pittsburgh
10/11	W 16-6	at New York Jets
10/17	W 24-7	Cleveland
10/31	W 41-10	at Cincinnati
11/07	W 30-7	at Atlanta
11/14	W 6-3	Baltimore
11/21	W 41-23	New Orleans
11/28	W 30-23	at Baltimore
12/02	W 20-6	Pittsburgh
12/13	W 27-24	Denver
12/19	W 24-14	at Cleveland
12/26	L 14-41	at Tennessee
01/02	W 24-7	Cincinnati

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	LONG	TD
J. Stewart	249	931	3.7	44t	13
Taylor	159	732	4.6	52	6
Brunell	47	208	4.4	15	1
Banks	23	82	3.6	21	0
Howard	13	55	4.2	22	0
Mack	7	40	5.7	19	0
Fiedler	13	26	2.0	15	0
Whitted	1	9	9.0	9	0
Barker	1	6	6.0	6	0
Shelton	1	2	2.0	2	0
Team	514	2091	4.1	52	20
Opponents	373	1444	3.9	46	6

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	LONG	TD
J. Smith	116	1636	14.1	62	6
McCardell	78	891	11.4	49	5
Brady	32	346	10.8	30	1
J. Stewart	21	108	5.1	19	0
Jones	19	221	11.6	31	4
Barlow	16	202	12.6	31	0
Banks	14	137	9.8	38	0
Shelton	12	87	7.3	13	0
Taylor	10	83	8.3	41	0
Howard	1	8	8.0	8	0
Wiegert	1	-3	-3.0	-3	0
Team	320	3716	11.6	62	16
Opponents	291	3263	11.2	65t	18

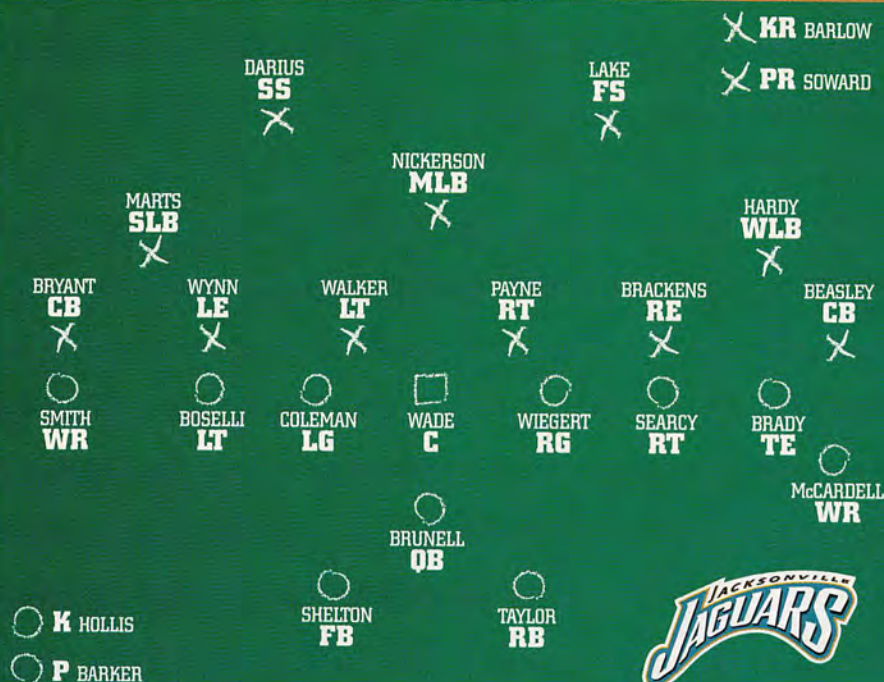
PASSING	ATT	CMP	YDS	TD	INT
Brunell	441	259	3060	14	9
Fiedler	94	61	656	2	2
Team	535	320	3716	16	11
Opponents	521	291	3263	18	19

### SACKS

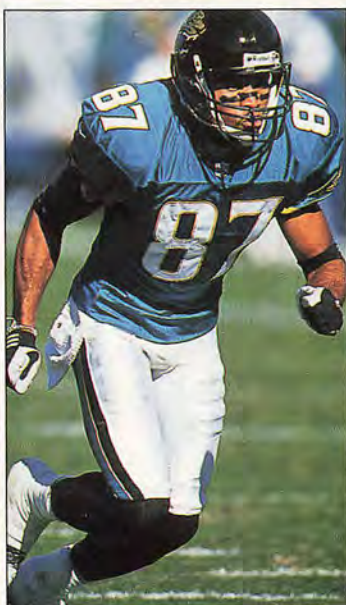
Brackens 12.0, Hardy 10.5, Walker 10.0, Smeenge 5.0, Boyer 4.0, Lake 3.5, L. Smith 3.0, Marts 2.0, Beasley 1.5, Payne 1.5, Wynn 1.5, Paup 1.0, Roberson 1.0, Curry 0.5

Team 57.0, Opponents 36.0

## PROJECTED STARTERS







Keenan McCardell (left) caught 78 passes in '99, while linebacker Kevin Hardy benefited from a new defensive scheme with 10.5 sacks.

rusher. The weak spot is left end **Renaldo Wynn**, who made just 16 tackles in 10 games. Backups are thin.

Nickerson was signed as a free agent from Tampa Bay to police the inside. He's injury-prone at this stage of his career, but the Jags feel he can be protected. **Kevin Hardy** is among the best outside linebackers in the league. He had 10.5 sacks and plays the run well. **Lonnie Marts** moved from the middle into the right linebacker job vacated by Bryce Paup, who was released.

Jacksonville hit the jackpot with rookie left corner **Fernando Bryant** and veteran free safety **Lake** last year. They combine with strong safety **Donovin Darius** and right corner **Aaron Beasley** to form one of the league's better secondaries.

**Reggie Barlow** has been a double-barreled return man, but his punt return job is threatened by Soward, who can be breathtaking in the open field. Kicker **Mike Hollis** struggled when attempting anything from the 40 or beyond. His kickoffs are not up to par, either. Punter **Bryan Barker's** gross average, 41.8 yards, was the lowest in his four years in Jacksonville, but he dropped 32 punts inside the 20-yard line.

In an odd switch, Frank Gansz left the Rams to become special teams coach of the Jaguars while Larry Pasquale moved from Jacksonville to St. Louis.

## JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS

Tom Coughlin, head coach

John Bonamego, assistant special teams; Dom Capers, defensive coordinator; Pete Carmichael, wide receivers; Perry Fewell, secondary; Greg Finnegan, assistant strength and conditioning; Frank Gansz, special teams; Fred Hoaglin, tight ends; Jerald Ingram, running backs; Lane Kiffin, defensive quality control; Mike Maser, offensive line; Garrick McGee, offensive quality control; John McNulty, quality control; Jerry Palmieri, strength and conditioning; John Pease, defensive line; Bob Petrino, quarterbacks; Lucious Selmon, outside linebackers; Steve Szabo, inside linebackers

#	QUARTERBACK	HT	WT	BORN	EXP.	COLLEGE
8	Brunell, Mark	QB 6-1	216	09/17/70	6	Washington
10	Martin, Jamie	QB 6-2	206	02/08/70	3	Weber State
12	Quinn, Jonathan	QB 6-6	240	02/27/75	2	Middle Tennessee State

#	OFFENSIVE LINE	HT	WT	BORN	EXP.	COLLEGE
72	Searcy, Leon	T 6-4	315	12/21/69	8	Miami (FL)
71	Boselli, Tony	T 6-7	318	04/17/72	5	Southern California
77	Wiegert, Zach	G 6-5	310	08/16/72	5	Nebraska
67	Ingram, Steve	T 6-4	315	05/08/71	2	Maryland
65	Neujahr, Quentin	C 6-4	294	01/30/71	4	Kansas State
78	Fordham, Todd	G 6-5	308	10/09/73	2	Florida State
66	Wade, John	C 6-5	294	01/25/75	2	Marshall
79	Cesario, Anthony	G 6-5	311	07/19/76	0	Colorado State

#	RUNNING BACKS	HT	WT	BORN	EXP.	COLLEGE
31	Shelton, Daimon	RB 6-0	254	09/15/72	3	Sacramento State
28	Taylor, Fred	RB 6-1	227	06/27/76	2	Florida
22	Banks, Tavian	RB 5-10	208	02/17/74	2	Iowa
24	Howard, Chris	RB 5-10	226	05/05/75	2	Michigan
34	Mack, Stacey	RB 6-1	237	06/26/75	1	Temple

#	RECEIVERS	HT	WT	BORN	EXP.	COLLEGE
87	McCardell, Keenan	WR 6-1	185	01/06/70	8	UNLV
82	Smith, Jimmy	WR 6-1	200	02/09/69	6	Jackson State
85	Griffith, Rich	TE 6-5	256	07/31/69	6	Arizona
80	Brady, Kyle	TE 6-6	274	01/14/72	5	Penn State
84	Barlow, Reggie	WR 6-0	186	01/22/73	4	Alabama State
81	Twynner, Gunnard	WR 5-10	167	07/14/73	1	Western Illinois
88	Jones, Damon	TE 6-5	266	09/18/74	3	Southern Illinois
86	Whitted, Alvis	WR 6-0	186	09/04/74	2	North Carolina State
83	Jackson, Lenzie	WR 6-0	187	06/17/77	1	Arizona State

#	DEFENSIVE LINE	HT	WT	BORN	EXP.	COLLEGE
99	Smeenge, Joel	DE 6-6	265	04/01/68	10	Western Michigan
75	Curry, Eric	DE 6-6	277	02/03/70	7	Alabama
96	Walker, Gary	DT 6-2	293	02/28/73	5	Auburn
90	Brackens, Tony	DE 6-4	257	12/26/74	4	Texas
97	Wynn, Renaldo	DE 6-3	283	09/03/74	3	Notre Dame
91	Payne, Seth	DT 6-4	289	02/12/75	3	Cornell
94	Smith, Larry	DT 6-5	282	12/04/74	1	Florida State
93	Landolt, Kevin	DT 6-4	298	10/25/75	1	West Virginia
61	Leroy, Emarlos	DT 6-1	310	07/31/75	1	Georgia
74	White, Chris	DE 6-3	285	09/28/76	0	Southern University

#	DEFENSIVE BACKS	HT	WT	BORN	EXP.	COLLEGE
37	Lake, Carnell	S 6-1	207	07/15/67	11	UCLA
21	Beasley, Aaron	CB 6-0	190	07/07/73	4	West Virginia
26	Stewart, Rayna	S 5-10	198	06/18/73	4	Northern Arizona
32	Logan, Mike	S 6-0	211	09/15/74	3	West Virginia
38	McElmurry, Blaine	S 6-0	192	10/23/73	2	Montana
20	Darius, Donovin	S 6-1	216	08/12/75	2	Syracuse
25	Bryant, Fernando	CB 5-10	174	03/26/77	1	Alabama
29	Craft, Jason	CB 5-10	178	02/13/76	1	Colorado State
23	Chamblin, Corey	CB 5-10	188	05/28/77	1	Tennessee Tech

#	LINEBACKERS	HT	WT	BORN	EXP.	COLLEGE
56	Marts, Lonnie	LB 6-2	246	11/10/68	9	Tulane
56	Nickerson, Hardy	LB 6-2	236	09/01/65	13	California
52	Boyer, Brant	LB 6-1	232	06/27/71	6	Arizona
51	Hardy, Kevin	LB 6-4	247	07/24/73	4	Illinois
54	Burnett, Chester	LB 5-10	238	04/15/75	1	Arizona
50	Storz, Erik	LB 6-2	240	06/24/75	2	Boston College
57	Terry, Corey	LB 6-3	246	03/06/76	1	Tennessee

#	KICKERS	HT	WT	BORN	EXP.	COLLEGE
4	Barker, Bryan	P 6-2	199	06/28/64	10	Santa Clara
1	Hollis, Mike	K 5-7	178	05/22/72	5	Idaho
2	Lindsey, Steve	K 6-1	176	11/25/74	1	Mississippi

\*roster as of May 15

## 2000 DRAFTTEES

RD	PICK	NAME	POS	HT	WT	BORN	COLLEGE
1	29	Soward, R. Jay	WR	5-10	177	01/16/78	Southern California
2	29	Meester, Brad	C	6-3	298	03/23/77	Northern Iowa
3	30	Slaughter, T.J.	LB	6-0	242	02/20/77	Southern Mississippi
4	29	Chusztz, Joey	T	6-6	305	01/18/77	Louisiana Tech
5	30	Thomas, Kiwaukee	CB	5-11	178	06/19/77	Georgia Southern
6	30	Smith, Emanuel	WR	6-1	223	02/03/76	Arkansas
7	30	Olson, Erik	S	6-1	215	01/04/77	Colorado State
7	35	Meier, Rob	DT	6-6	267	08/29/77	Washington State
7	37	Stith, Shyrone	RB	5-7	208	04/02/78	Virginia Tech
7	39	Clark, Danny	LB	6-2	225	06/09/77	Illinois
7	41	Baniewicz, Mark	G	6-6	282	03/24/77	Syracuse

\*All times Eastern

## 2000 SCHEDULE

WEEK				
1	9/3	at Cleveland	1:00	
2	9/10	at Baltimore	1:00	
3	9/17	CINCINNATI	1:00	
4	9/25	at Indianapolis	9:00	
5	10/1	PITTSBURGH	1:00	
6	10/8	BALTIMORE	8:20	
7	10/16	at Tennessee	9:00	
8	10/22	WASHINGTON	4:15	
9	10/29	at Dallas	4:15	
10	11/5	OPEN DATE		
11	11/12	SEATTLE	1:00	
12	11/19	at Pittsburgh	8:20	
13	11/26	TENNESSEE	4:15	
14	12/3	CLEVELAND	4:15	
15	12/10	ARIZONA	1:00	
16	12/17	at Cincinnati	1:00	
17	12/23	at N.Y. Giants	12:30	





## AFC CENTRAL

### Talented Titans are minus element of surprise, so playoff spot appears to be in the wild cards.

**T**he Titans made a living off being underestimated in their "Happy Ending" season, but no one will take them for granted this time. They found too many ways to win.

Yet Tennessee can't rest easily in the tight AFC Central. The Titans compiled a 7-1 record in the division, but the last time they faced Baltimore the Ravens drilled them, 41-14. Then there is the vengeance factor in Jacksonville, where the Jaguars vow to atone for

the three-game sweep they suffered.

Coach Jeff

Fisher wants more of the same in 2000, not only in results but style. A Calvin Coolidge offense

blended with space-age defense is fine with Fisher. He pushed his offensive coordinator, Les Steckel, out the door because he wasn't conservative enough. Hired to follow

*Quarterback McNair didn't put up big numbers last year, but he limited his mistakes and became a leader.*

the '99 offensive blueprint was Mike Heimerdinger, who was Denver's wide receiver coach.

#### By George, Eddie's got it

It seems the more running back **Eddie George** works, the better he gets. In four years he has averaged 1,340 yards a season. His 4.1-yards per carry average last year was his best since his rookie season. The bigger the game, the higher George reaches. He dominated Tennessee's upset victory at Indianapolis with 162 yards. His 95 yards in the Super Bowl were more than triple the Rams' team total. He's a horse. Without him in the lineup, the Titans are in serious trouble. There are no adequate backups.

As a passer **Steve McNair** remains a work in progress. Only once in the four postseason games did he pass for more than 112 yards (214 in the Super Bowl), but he does enough things to produce victory. Against Jacksonville in the AFC title game, he out-gained George on the ground, 91-86. In the Super Bowl he averaged eight yards in eight carries. He's also a horse. Of Tennessee's 19 regular-season rushing touchdowns, he and George scored all but two. The Titans' front office spent serious money to assure that **Neil O'Donnell** stayed as McNair's backup.

#### McNair's security blanket

**Frank Wycheck**, more of an H-back than a tight end, is one of the more underrated Titans. He led the team in receptions with 69, which averaged out to just 9.3 yards per catch, but he served as McNair's one-man comfort zone. To play Tennessee's conservative system,

a blocking tight end is required, so the Titans, who made defensive players their draftees on seven of their first eight picks, used the exception to bring in some help for Wycheck, **Erron Kinney**, in the second round. He needs to be more physical than he was at Florida.

When McNair needs to throw downfield, he has two good targets, speedy **Kevin Dyson**



*Eddie George showed versatility last year, catching 47 passes and gaining 1,304 yards rushing.*

and injury-prone **Yancey Thigpen**. Dyson improved measurably (54 catches) after a disappointing rookie season. **Chris Sanders** and **Isaac Byrd**, the top reserves, can fly.

The Titans suffered a huge free-agent loss when right tackle **Jon Runyan** signed with Philadelphia, but they compensated by signing **Fred Miller** away from their Super Bowl conquerors, the Rams. **Bruce Matthews** returns for his 18th season, this time at left guard. **Brad Hopkins** is among the elite left tackles. **Benji Olson** is the right guard and **Kevin Long** the center. The fullback, **Lorenzo Neal**, is such a good blocker that he belongs with this group.

## NUMBERS

### TEAM STATS

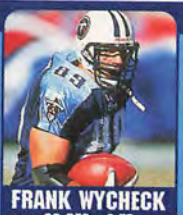
TOTAL OFFENSE	331.0	13
RUSHING	113.2	13
PASSING	217.8	13T
SCORING	24.5	7
PUNT RETURNS	9.0	17T
KICK RETURNS	18.6	31
RED ZONE TD %	.620	3

### NFL RANK

### TEAM STATS

TOTAL DEFENSE	327.8	17
AGAINST RUSH	96.9	10
AGAINST PASS	230.9	25
PTS. ALLOWED	20.2	14T
INTERCEPTIONS	16	17T
SACKS	54	3
TURNOVER DIFF.	+18	2

### NFL RANK



**FRANK WYCHECK**  
69 REC 2 TD



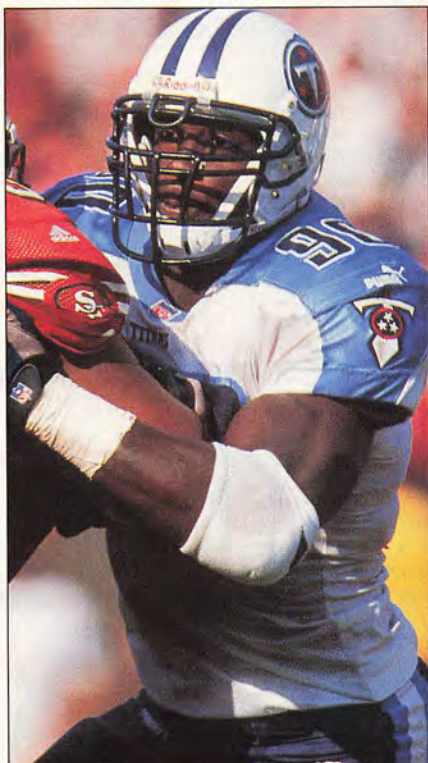
## Defense swears by Kears

The defense, which allowed just six touchdowns in four postseason games, got better during the offseason. For starters, **Jevon Kears**, accurately nicknamed "The Freak" for the amazing feats he is able to perform on the field, has a year of experience. That means Fisher now has the confidence to use him in more unorthodox formations. Kears's immense wingspan and startling

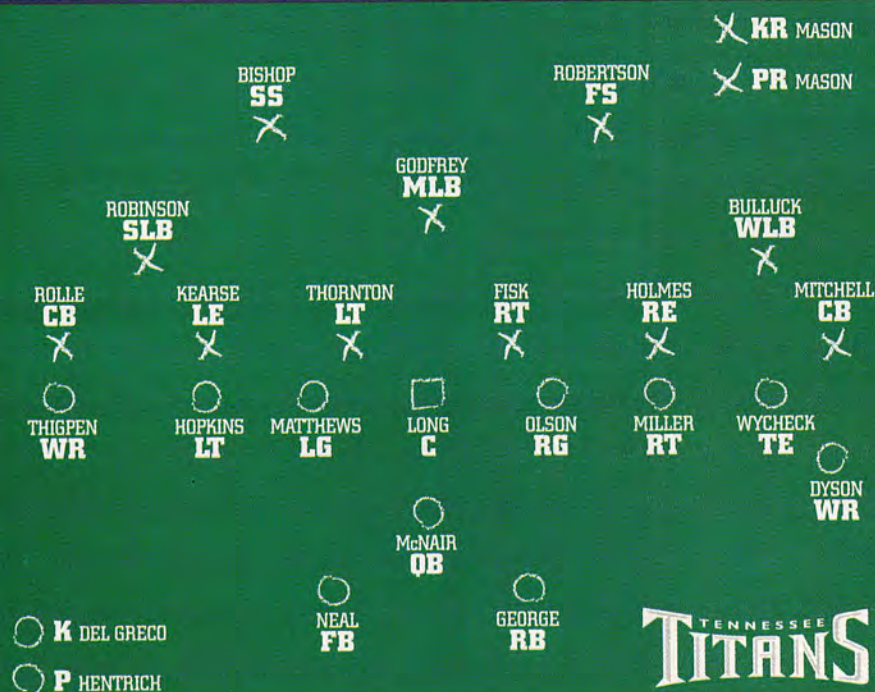
quickness are weapons few offenses can cope with. As a rookie he led the AFC in sacks with 14.5. That may be just the beginning.

Versatile **Randall Godfrey**, formerly with Dallas, was signed as a free agent and immediately installed as the middle linebacker. Fisher may use him in a number of different roles because of speed and mobility. The Titans were surprised to find Syracuse linebacker **Keith Bulluck** available when

*Defensive end Jevon Kears (left) set an NFL rookie record with 14.5 sacks last season, while all-time offensive lineman Bruce Matthews played his 17th NFL season.*



## PROJECTED STARTERS



## 1999 FINAL STATS

Won 13, Lost 3

DATE	SCORE	
09/12	W 36-35	Cincinnati
09/19	W 26-9	Cleveland
09/26	W 20-19	at Jacksonville
10/03	L 22-24	at San Francisco
10/10	W 14-11	Baltimore
10/17	W 24-21	at New Orleans
10/31	W 24-21	St. Louis
11/07	L 0-17	at Miami
11/14	W 24-14	at Cincinnati
11/21	W 16-10	Pittsburgh
11/28	W 33-21	at Cleveland
12/05	L 14-41	at Baltimore
12/09	W 21-14	Oakland
12/19	W 30-17	Atlanta
12/26	W 41-14	Jacksonville
01/02	W 47-36	at Pittsburgh

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	LONG	TD
E. George	320	1304	4.1	40	9
McNair	72	337	4.7	38	8
Thomas	43	164	3.8	22	1
Dyson	1	3	3.0	3	0
Hentrich	2	1	0.5	1	0
Neal	2	1	0.5	1t	1
O'Donnell	19	1	0.1	4	0
Team	459	1811	3.9	40	19
Opponents	383	1550	4.0	72	8

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Wycheck	69	641	9.3	35	2
Dyson	54	658	12.2	47t	4
E. George	47	458	9.7	54t	4
Thigpen	38	648	17.1	35	4
Harris	26	297	11.4	62t	1
Sanders	20	336	16.8	48t	1
Byrd	14	261	18.6	65t	2
Roan	9	93	10.3	24t	3
Thomas	9	72	8.0	26	0
Mason	8	89	11.1	31	0
Neal	7	27	3.9	8	2
Kent	3	42	14.0	25	0
Team	304	3622	11.9	65t	23
Opponents	312	4000	12.8	78t	26

PASSING	ATT	CMP	YDS	TD	INT
McNair	331	187	2179	12	8
O'Donnell	195	116	1382	10	5
Wycheck	1	1	61	1	0
Team	527	304	3622	23	13
Opponents	557	312	4000	26	16

### SACKS

Kears 14.5, Robinson 6.0, Ford 5.5, Thornton 4.5, Fisk 4.0, Holmes 4.0, Bowden 3.5, Evans 3.5, Rolle 3.0, Bishop 2.5, Jones 1.0, Frederick 0.5, Jackson 0.5, Robertson 0.5, Wortham 0.5

Team 54.0, Opponents 25.0



their turn came up in the first round of the draft. A one-time college safety, Bulluck, as the starting right linebacker, could add to the reckless aspect of the Tennessee defense.



Veteran placekicker Al Del Greco, 38, appears to be getting better with age. He missed only four field goals last year and scored 106 points.

Derrick Mason blossomed as a return man in the playoffs, especially on his 80-yard return of a free kick against Jacksonville following a safety. That play broke open the game.

The one sour note on defense was the one-year suspension handed down to left defensive tackle Josh Evans by the NFL for substance abuse. Evans made huge plays in the playoff victories over Buffalo and Jacksonville. John Thornton, impressive in a supporting role as a rookie, gets his position. Jason Fisk is at right tackle, Kenny Holmes at right end and Kearsse at left end. Henry Ford is a top backup.

Right corner Samari Rolle, an incredible leaper, is another of Fisher's superb athletes on defense. Donald Mitchell will start the season at left corner since Denard Walker was suspended for the first two games by the NFL. Strong safety Blaine Bishop will keep being used as a glorified linebacker, and Marcus Robertson returns as the free safety. The draft brings two safeties but they need polishing.

Craig Hentrich, with his 38.1-yard net average and 35 kicks dropped inside the 20, is as valuable as any punter in the league. Placekicker Al Del Greco was a solid 21-for-25.



## 2000 SCHEDULE

WEEK			
1	9/3	at Buffalo	8:20
2	9/10	KANSAS CITY	1:00
3	9/17	OPEN DATE	
4	9/24	at Pittsburgh	1:00
5	10/1	N.Y. GIANTS	1:00
6	10/8	at Cincinnati	1:00
7	10/16	JACKSONVILLE	9:00
8	10/22	at Baltimore	1:00
9	10/30	at Washington	9:00
10	11/5	PITTSBURGH	1:00
11	11/12	BALTIMORE	1:00
12	11/19	CLEVELAND	1:00
13	11/26	at Jacksonville	4:15
14	12/3	at Philadelphia	1:00
15	12/10	CINCINNATI	1:00
16	12/17	at Cleveland	1:00
17	12/25	DALLAS	9:00

\*All times Eastern

## TENNESSEE TITANS

Jeff Fisher, head coach

Bart Andrus, offensive assistant/quality control; O'Neill Gilbert, linebackers; Jerry Gray, defensive backs; Mike Heimerdinger, offensive coordinator; George Henshaw, assistant head coach/offense; Craig Johnson, offensive quality control; Alan Lowry, special teams; Mike Munchak, offensive line; Jim Schwartz, linebackers coach; Sherman Smith, running backs; Ronnie Vinkler, defensive quality control; Steve Walters, wide receivers; Jim Washburn, defensive line; Steve Watterson, strength and rehabilitation; Gregg Williams, defensive coordinator

#	QUARTERBACK	HT	WT	BORN	EXP.	COLLEGE
14	O'Donnell, Neil	QB	6-3	228	07/03/66	9 Maryland
9	McNair, Steve	QB	6-2	225	02/14/73	5 Alcorn State
13	Daft, Kevin	QB	6-1	202	11/19/75	0 California-Davis

#	OFFENSIVE LINE	HT	WT	BORN	EXP.	COLLEGE
74	Matthews, Bruce	C	6-5	305	08/08/61	17 Southern California
72	Hopkins, Brad	T	6-3	306	09/05/70	7 Illinois
76	Mathews, Jason	T	6-5	304	02/09/71	6 Texas A&M
73	Miller, Fred	T	6-7	315	02/06/73	4 Baylor
73	Sanderson, Scott	G	6-6	295	07/25/74	3 Washington State
75	Olson, Benji	G	6-3	315	06/05/75	2 Washington
60	Long, Kevin	C	6-5	296	05/02/75	2 Florida State
71	Piller, Zach	G	6-5	320	05/02/76	1 Florida
62	Page, Craig	C	6-3	303	01/17/76	0 Georgia Tech

#	RUNNING BACKS	HT	WT	BORN	EXP.	COLLEGE
41	Neal, Lorenzo	RB	5-11	240	12/27/70	7 Fresno State
20	Thomas, Rodney	RB	5-10	210	03/30/73	5 Texas A&M
27	George, Eddie	RB	6-3	240	09/24/73	4 Ohio State
26	George, Spencer	RB	5-9	202	10/28/73	3 Rice

#	RECEIVERS	HT	WT	BORN	EXP.	COLLEGE
82	Thigpen, Yancey	WR	6-1	203	08/15/69	9 Winston-Salem
89	Wycheck, Frank	TE	6-3	250	10/14/71	7 Maryland
81	Sanders, Chris	WR	6-1	188	05/08/72	5 Ohio State
80	Roan, Michael	TE	6-3	251	08/29/72	5 Wisconsin
86	Kent, Joey	WR	6-1	191	04/23/74	3 Tennessee
85	Mason, Derrick	WR	5-10	187	01/17/74	3 Michigan State
87	Dyson, Kevin	WR	6-1	201	06/23/75	2 Utah
83	Byrd, Isaac	WR	6-1	188	11/16/74	3 Kansas
84	Brown, Larry	TE	6-4	280	09/01/76	1 Georgia

#	DEFENSIVE LINE	HT	WT	BORN	EXP.	COLLEGE
96	Jones, Mike D.	DT	6-4	280	08/25/69	9 North Carolina State
92	Ford, Henry	DE	6-3	295	10/30/71	6 Arkansas State
97	Fisk, Jason	DT	6-3	295	09/04/72	5 Stanford
91	Evans, Josh	DT	6-2	288	09/06/72	5 UAB
99	Holmes, Kenny	DE	6-4	270	10/24/73	3 Miami (FL)
95	Salave'a, Joe	DT	6-3	290	03/23/75	2 Arizona
90	Kearsse, Jevon	DE	6-4	265	09/03/76	1 Florida
78	Thornton, John	DT	6-2	304	10/02/76	1 West Virginia

#	DEFENSIVE BACKS	HT	WT	BORN	EXP.	COLLEGE
31	Robertson, Marcus	S	5-11	197	10/02/69	9 Iowa State
23	Bishop, Blaine	S	5-9	203	07/24/70	7 Ball State
25	Walker, Denard	CB	6-1	190	08/09/73	3 Louisiana State
38	McCullough, George	CB	5-10	187	02/18/75	3 Baylor
21	Rolle, Samari	CB	6-0	175	08/10/76	2 Florida State
37	Sidney, Dainon	CB	6-0	188	05/30/75	2 UAB
35	Phenix, Perry	S	5-11	210	11/14/74	2 Southern Mississippi
36	Ware, Brad	S	6-2	202	03/26/78	0 Auburn
30	Mitchell, Donald	CB	5-9	185	12/14/76	1 Southern Methodist

#	LINEBACKERS	HT	WT	BORN	EXP.	COLLEGE
55	Robinson, Eddie	LB	6-1	243	04/13/70	8 Alabama State
52	Wortham, Barron	LB	5-11	244	11/01/69	6 UTEP
56	Godfrey, Randall	LB	6-2	237	04/06/73	4 Georgia
51	Favors, Gregory	LB	6-1	235	09/30/74	2 Mississippi State
54	Glover, Phil	LB	5-11	241	12/17/75	1 Utah

#	KICKERS	HT	WT	BORN	EXP.	COLLEGE
3	Del Greco, Al	K	5-10	202	03/02/62	16 Auburn
15	Hentrich, Craig	P	6-3	205	05/18/71	6 Notre Dame

\*roster as of May 15

## 2000 DRAFTEES

RD	PICK	NAME	POS	HT	WT	BORN	COLLEGE
1	30	Bulluck, Keith	LB	6-3	244	04/04/77	Syracuse
3	6	Kinney, Erron	TE	6-5	275	07/28/77	Florida
3	31	Frisch, Byron	DE	6-4	281	12/17/76	Brigham Young
4	30	Myers, Bobby	S	6-1	180	10/11/76	Wisconsin
4	34	Sirmon, Peter	LB	6-2	245	02/18/77	Oregon
5	6	Morris, Aric	S	5-11	207	07/22/77	Michigan State
5	31	Chamberlin, Frank	LB	6-0	239	01/02/78	Boston College
6	31	Smith, Robaire	DE	6-5	269	11/15/77	Michigan State
7	7	Green, Mike	RB	5-11	250	—	Houston
7	31	Shivers, Wes	T	6-7	325	03/08/77	Mississippi State





## Even with cloud of Lewis hanging over, Ravens now have the look of a real contender with a growing offensive arsenal.

**E**ver since pro football returned to Baltimore, the Ravens' defense has held up its end. Last year it was second in the NFL. Again, it wasn't enough.

Now the Ravens may be about to make their move, even playing under the pall of watching their best defensive player, linebacker **Ray Lewis**, facing trial for his alleged part in a shooting hours after the last Super Bowl.

After slogging along for half the season, the Baltimore offense came alive shortly before Thanksgiving, scoring 30 points a game until it lost a run-for-the-bus finale in New England. Since then, the attack has been bolstered by free agency and the college draft.

### Banking on Tony

Much depends upon the development of quarterback **Tony Banks**. When Brian Billick began his first season as the Ravens' new head coach, he started out with Scott Mitchell at quarterback. When Mitchell quickly faltered, he turned to Stoney Case. Banks, coming off a lengthy test as the Rams' quarterback that he flunked, was a last resort.

Billick, noted for his sensitive hand with quarterbacks, brought the best out of Banks. He finished with a 17-to-8 touchdown pass-to-interception ratio. His percentage of touchdown passes to pass attempts, 5.3, was the highest in the AFC. At the end of the season the Ravens signed him to a new contract. They also signed ex-Tampa Bay starter **Trent Dilfer** as his backup.

### Sharpe-r image for offense

Banks' new best friend is tight end **Shannon Sharpe**, who played the same role for John Elway many years in Denver. Baltimore tight ends caught a total of 28 passes for one touchdown last year. With Sharpe, that figure should inflate.

At draft time management gave Billick some exciting new playmates to keep the

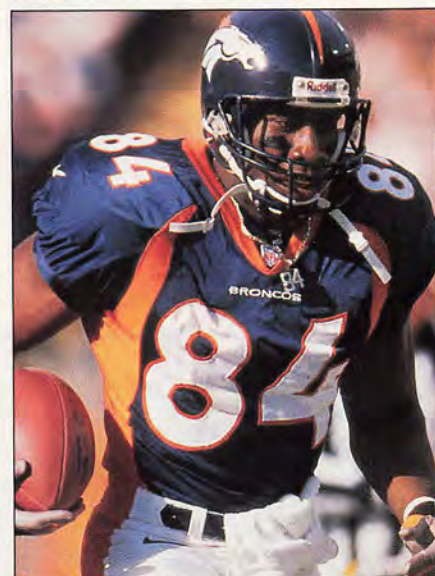
offense on the upswing. The new running back is **Jamal Lewis**, undeniably a risky pick in the fifth slot overall. The Ravens are gambling that Lewis can be the explosive, speedy game-breaker that he was for Tennessee in 1997 and 1998. He suffered a serious knee injury midway through the '98 season and last year, after suffering shoulder and knee injuries, he ran tentatively and bore little resemblance to the old Lewis. If Lewis isn't ready, the job goes to **Priest Holmes**, backup to departed **Erict Rhett**. **Charles Evans** is a solid fullback.

With their second first-round pick, the Ravens addressed one of their most pressing needs when they took **Travis Taylor**, Florida's big-game wide receiver. Last season they started **Qadry Ismail** and **Justin Armour**, players who would have trouble starting on other teams. Taylor is a good bet to start across from **Patrick Johnson**, another flyer who averaged 18.1 yards on his 29 catches.

**Jonathan Ogden**, one of the best left tackles in football, anchors the offensive line. Veteran **Harry Swayne** is the right tackle, with **Jeff Mitchell** at center. The guards, **Edwin Mulitalo** on the left and inexperienced **Mike Flynn** on the right, are iffy.

### Defense remains strong

The unresolved matter of Lewis, the highest-paid player on the roster, forced Baltimore to hold off on signing someone in his place. To further complicate things for the defense, the league office suspended tackle **Larry Webster** for the season due to substance abuse. The Ravens solved that by



The Ravens signed play-making tight end **Shannon Sharpe** (below) from Denver to join perennial Pro Bowl tackle **Jonathan Ogden** on their offensive line.

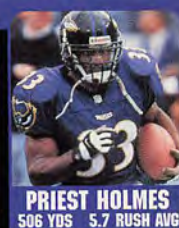
signing free agent **Sam Adams** of Seattle, who is an upgrade.

**Tyrell Peters** is the only choice the Ravens may have at middle linebacker.

## NUMBERS

TEAM STATS	NFL RANK
TOTAL OFFENSE	298.6 24
RUSHING	109.6 16
PASSING	189.0 25
SCORING	20.2 14
PUNT RETURNS	7.7 24
KICK RETURNS	20.3 19T
RED ZONE TD %	.341 30

TEAM STATS	NFL RANK
TOTAL DEFENSE	263.9 2
AGAINST RUSH	76.9 2
AGAINST PASS	186.9 6
PTS. ALLOWED	17.3 6
INTERCEPTIONS	21 9T
SACKS	49 6
TURNOVER DIFF.	0 14



**PRIEST HOLMES**  
506 YDS 5.7 RUSH AVG



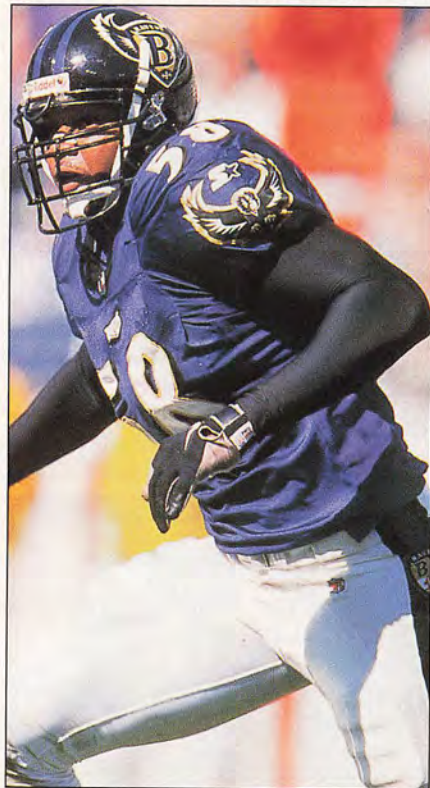
Whoever plays there will be surrounded by **Peter Boulware**, a Pro Bowl pass rusher on the left, and **Jamie Sharper**, another good blitzzer, on the right.

Adams strengthens an already-glitzzy line. **Michael McCrary**, who led the team with 11 sacks, is the right end. Veteran **Rob Burnett**,

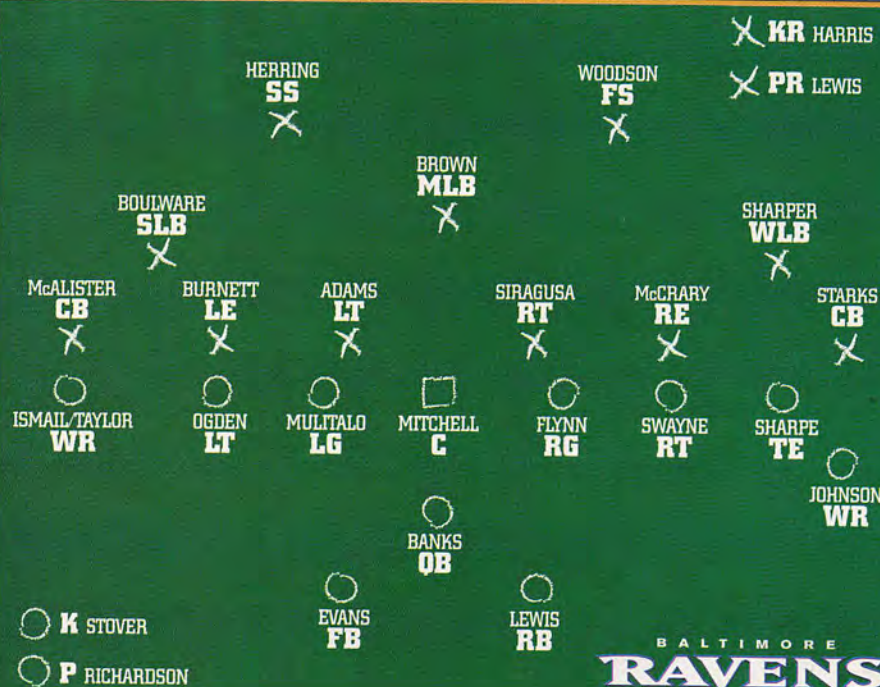
the left end, had 6.5 sacks. Adams, who will play left tackle, combines with **Tony Siragusa** as a formidable obstacle to inside runners, even without Lewis behind them.

At 35, free safety **Rod Woodson** still makes plays. He led the Ravens last season with seven interceptions, two of which he

*Linebacker Peter Boulware (left) and defensive end Michael McCrary, both Pro Bowl picks last year, give the Ravens one of the most feared pass rushes in the AFC.*



## PROJECTED STARTERS



## 1999 FINAL STATS

Won 8, Lost 8

DATE	SCORE	
09/12	L 10-27	at St. Louis
09/19	L 20-23	Pittsburgh
09/26	W 17-10	Cleveland
10/03	W 19-13	at Atlanta
10/10	L 11-14	at Tennessee
10/21	L 8-35	Kansas City
10/31	L 10-13	Buffalo
11/07	W 41-9	at Cleveland
11/14	L 3-6	at Jacksonville
11/21	W 34-31	at Cincinnati
11/28	L 23-30	Jacksonville
12/05	W 41-14	Tennessee
12/12	W 31-24	at Pittsburgh
12/19	W 31-8	New Orleans
12/26	W 22-0	Cincinnati
01/02	L 3-20	at New England

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Rhett	236	852	3.6	52t	5
Holmes	89	506	5.7	72	1
Case	36	141	3.9	28	3
Evans	38	134	3.5	12	0
Banks	24	93	3.9	12	0
Johnson	1	12	12.0	12	0
J. Lewis	5	11	2.2	4	0
Ismail	1	4	4.0	4	0
S. Mitchell	1	1	1.0	1	0
Team	431	1754	4.1	72	9
Opponents	392	1231	3.1	31	6

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Ismail	68	1105	16.3	76t	6
Armour	37	538	14.5	54t	4
Evans	32	235	7.3	27	1
Johnson	29	526	18.1	76t	3
J. Lewis	25	281	11.2	46	2
Rhett	24	169	7.0	20t	2
Holmes	13	104	8.0	34t	1
DeLong	13	52	4.0	9	1
Pierce	11	102	9.3	26	0
Davis	6	121	20.2	73	0
Collins	4	62	15.5	28	0
Ofodile	4	25	6.3	9	0
Purnell	2	10	5.0	5	0
Stokley	1	28	28.0	28t	1
Ayanbadejo	1	2	2.0	2	0
Team	270	3360	12.4	76t	21
Opponents	328	3282	10.0	61	20

PASSING	ATT	CMP	YDS	TD	INT
Banks	320	169	2136	17	8
Case	170	77	988	3	8
S. Mitchell	56	24	236	1	4
Team	546	270	3360	21	20
Opponents	599	328	3282	20	21

### SACKS

McCrary 11.5, Boulware 10.0, Burnett 6.5, Sharper 4.0, R. Lewis 3.5, Siragusa 3.5, Smith 2.0, Webster 2.0, Brown 1.0, Dalton 1.0, Harris 1.0, Jenkins 1.0, Trapp 1.0, Washington 1.0

Team 49.0, Opponents 56.0

BALTIMORE  
**RAVENS**

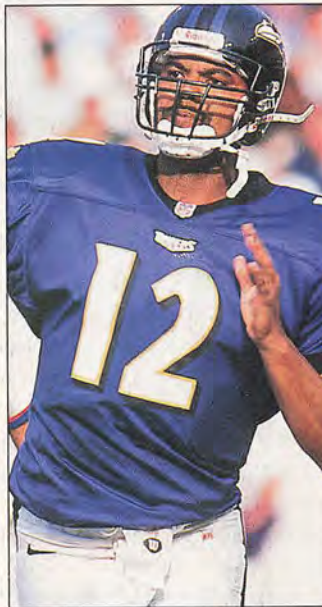




**Qadry Ismail (above)** led Raven receivers last season by catching 68 passes for 1,105 yards, most of them coming from quarterback **Tony Banks** (right), who led Baltimore to a 6-4 mark in his starts.

returned for touchdowns. The corners, **Duane Starks** and **Chris McAlister**, both first-round draftees, each had five interceptions and a touchdown return. **Kim Herring** is adequate at strong safety.

**Jermaine Lewis** was a disappointment as a punt returner last year and **Corey Harris** was nothing special on kickoffs. **Kyle Richardson** placed 39 punts inside the 20. Kicker **Matt Stover** made a good comeback from a down performance the year before.



## 2000 SCHEDULE

WEEK			
1	9/3	at Pittsburgh	1:00
2	9/10	JACKSONVILLE	1:00
3	9/17	at Miami	8:20
4	9/24	CINCINNATI	1:00
5	10/1	at Cleveland	1:00
6	10/8	at Jacksonville	8:20
7	10/15	at Washington	1:00
8	10/22	TENNESSEE	1:00
9	10/29	PITTSBURGH	1:00
10	11/5	at Cincinnati	1:00
11	11/12	at Tennessee	1:00
12	11/19	DALLAS	4:15
13	11/26	CLEVELAND	1:00
14	12/3	OPEN DATE	
15	12/10	SAN DIEGO	1:00
16	12/17	at Arizona	4:15
17	12/24	NEW YORK JETS	1:00

\*All times Eastern

## BALTIMORE RAVENS

**Brian Billick**, head coach

**Matt Cavanaugh**, offensive coordinator; **Jim Colletto**, offensive line; **Jack Del Rio**, linebackers; **Jeff Friday**, strength and conditioning; **Wade Harman**, tight ends/assistant offensive line; **Donnie Henderson**, assistant defensive backs; **Milt Jackson**, wide receivers; **Marvin Lewis**, defensive coordinator; **Chip Morton**, assistant strength and conditioning; **Russ Purnell**, special teams; **Rex Ryan**, defensive line; **Steve Shafer**, defensive backs; **Matt Simon**, running backs; **Mike Smith**, defensive assistant

#	QUARTERBACK	HT	WT	BORN	EXP.	COLLEGE
12	Dilfer, Trent	QB	6-4	229	03/13/72	6 Fresno State
12	Banks, Tony	QB	6-4	225	04/05/73	4 Michigan State
#	OFFENSIVE LINE	HT	WT	BORN	EXP.	COLLEGE
70	Swayne, Harry	T	6-5	295	02/02/65	13 Rutgers
79	Vickers, Kipp	G	6-2	298	08/27/69	4 Miami (FL)
75	Ogden, Jonathan	T	6-8	335	07/31/74	4 UCLA
62	Flynn, Mike	T	6-3	295	06/15/74	2 Maine
74	Bobo, Orlando	G	6-3	299	02/09/74	3 Northeast Louisiana
61	Denson, Damon	G	6-4	305	02/08/75	3 Michigan
71	Folau, Spencer	T	6-5	300	04/05/73	3 Idaho
72	Williams, Sammy	G	6-5	318	12/14/74	1 Oklahoma
60	Mitchell, Jeff	C	6-4	300	01/29/74	2 Florida
64	Mulitalo, Edwin	G	6-3	340	09/01/74	1 Arizona
#	RUNNING BACKS	HT	WT	BORN	EXP.	COLLEGE
29	Evans, Charles	RB	6-1	245	04/16/67	7 Clark Atlanta
34	Graham, Jay	RB	5-11	215	07/14/75	3 Tennessee
33	Holmes, Priest	RB	5-9	205	10/07/73	3 Texas
30	Ayanbadejo, Obafemi	RB	6-2	235	03/05/75	2 San Diego State
#	RECEIVERS	HT	WT	BORN	EXP.	COLLEGE
84	Sharpe, Shannon	TE	6-2	230	06/26/68	10 Savannah State
82	Wainright, Frank	TE	6-2	255	10/10/67	8 Northern Colorado
87	Ismail, Qadry	WR	6-0	200	11/08/70	7 Syracuse
86	Davis, Billy	WR	6-1	205	07/06/72	5 Pittsburgh
85	DeLong, Greg	TE	6-4	255	04/03/73	5 North Carolina
84	Lewis, Jermaine	WR	5-7	175	10/16/74	4 Maryland
11	Nash, Marcus	WR	6-3	195	02/01/76	2 Tennessee
83	Johnson, Pat	WR	5-10	180	08/10/76	2 Oregon
80	Stokley, Brandon	WR	5-11	197	06/23/76	1 Southwestern Louisiana
49	Collins, Ryan	TE	6-7	259	11/01/75	1 St. Thomas (MN)
#	DEFENSIVE LINE	HT	WT	BORN	EXP.	COLLEGE
98	Siragusa, Tony	DT	6-3	340	05/14/67	10 Pittsburgh
90	Burnett, Rob	DE	6-4	270	08/27/67	10 Syracuse
99	McCrary, Michael	DE	6-4	260	07/07/70	7 Wake Forest
98	Adams, Sam	DT	6-3	300	06/13/73	6 Texas A&M
93	Washington, Keith	DE	6-4	270	12/18/73	4 UNLV
92	Chase, Martin	DT	6-2	310	12/19/74	1 Oklahoma
91	Dalton, Lionel	DT	6-1	320	02/21/75	2 Eastern Michigan
94	Douglas, Marques	DT	6-2	270	03/05/77	0 Howard
#	DEFENSIVE BACKS	HT	WT	BORN	EXP.	COLLEGE
26	Woodson, Rod	S	6-0	205	03/10/65	13 Purdue
35	Bailey, Robert	CB	5-10	182	09/03/68	9 Miami (FL)
45	Harris, Corey	S	5-11	200	10/25/69	8 Vanderbilt
38	Trapp, James	CB	6-0	190	12/28/69	7 Clemson
20	Herring, Kim	S	6-0	200	10/10/75	3 Penn State
22	Starks, Duane	CB	5-10	170	05/23/74	2 Miami (FL)
35	Love, Clarence	CB	5-10	181	06/16/75	1 Toledo
28	McAlister, Chris	CB	6-1	206	06/14/77	1 Arizona
43	Poindexter, Anthony	S	6-0	210	07/28/76	0 Virginia
42	Mitchell, Anthony	S	6-1	211	12/13/74	0 Tuskegee
#	LINEBACKERS	HT	WT	BORN	EXP.	COLLEGE
52	Lewis, Ray	LB	6-1	245	05/15/75	4 Miami (FL)
58	Boulware, Peter	LB	6-4	255	12/18/74	3 Florida State
55	Sharper, Jamie	LB	6-3	240	11/23/74	3 Virginia
54	McCloud, Tyrus	LB	6-1	250	11/23/74	2 Louisville
51	Brown, Cornell	LB	6-0	240	03/15/75	3 Virginia Tech
56	Stallings, Dennis	LB	6-0	240	05/25/74	2 Illinois
53	Peters, Tyrell	LB	6-0	235	08/04/74	3 Oklahoma
50	Jackson, Brad	LB	6-0	230	01/11/75	1 Cincinnati
#	KICKERS	HT	WT	BORN	EXP.	COLLEGE
3	Stover, Matt	K	5-11	178	01/27/68	9 Louisiana Tech
5	Richardson, Kyle	P	6-2	210	02/03/73	3 Arkansas State

\*roster as of May 15

## 2000 DRAFTEES

RD	PICK	NAME	POS	HT	WT	BORN	COLLEGE
1	5	Lewis, Jamal	RB	6-0	231	08/26/79	Tennessee
1	10	Taylor, Travis	WR	6-1	200	03/30/79	Florida
3	13	Redman, Chris	QB	6-2	222	07/07/77	Louisville
5	19	Mercier, Richard	G	6-2	294	05/13/75	Miami (FL)
6	20	Thomas, Adaius	DE	6-2	270	08/18/77	Southern Mississippi
6	25	Woodard, Cedric	DT	6-2	290		Texas





## Can explosive rookie Peter Warrick keep the Bengals from becoming the Clippers of the NFL?

**F**or nine consecutive seasons, the highlight of the Bengals' year has been the April college draft. It isn't a question of bringing up reinforcements. It's a necessity, since so many veteran Bengals want out of the organization.

Nine consecutive losing seasons in which your team averages less than five victories a year will do that to players, especially the sort of players the Bengals round up. Wide receiver **Carl Pickens** whined for years. **Corey Dillon**, who is coming off the kind of year most running backs dream of, is threatening to withhold his services for this season.

The newest of the Bengals' prize rookies, **Peter Warrick**, acted as if he were making the trip to Cincinnati with a gun to his head after Cleveland and then Washington passed him up in the draft.

For all their premium draft picks in the '90s, you would think the Bengals would have moved up in the AFC Central years ago. But they seem to have the same philosophy about scouts as Marge Schott did when she owned baseball's Cincinnati Reds: "What do scouts do but sit around and watch ball-games?" The Bengals have the smallest scouting staff in the NFL, so the power in the draft room belongs to the coaches. It shows in their won-lost records.

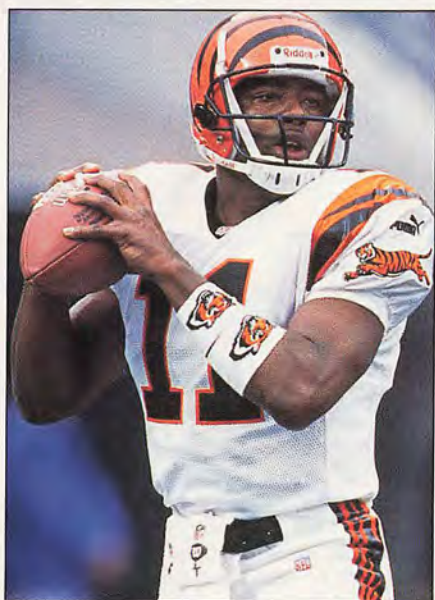
Bruce Coslet, the head coach, would be history with a team less philosophically opposed to paying someone for not coaching. In his eight seasons as a head coach, Coslet has one winning season, 1996, when the Bengals were so happy to get David Shula fired that they rewarded Coslet with a 7-2 record for the nine games he coached. His career record is 47-74.

### Akili's team

Cincy's immediate future is in the hands of **Akili Smith**, last year's top draftee. Smith held out for a large portion of training camp and was named the starter only after the team had a horrible beginning. He lasted just four games before a toe injury put him on the sidelines in favor of Jeff Blake. Blake signed with New Orleans after the season so it's Akili or sink for the Bengals. There is some worry. In his four starts he threw only two touchdown passes and was sacked almost five times a game. Only **Scott Mitchell**, who bombed in Baltimore, has experience behind him.

Smith will not want for targets. Warrick might have been the first pick in the draft,

*Warrick (left) will team with Darnay Scott and Carl Pickens to give Cincy an explosive WR trio.*



*QB Akili Smith was slowed by a toe injury in his rookie year that limited him to four starts.*

but his lack of breakaway speed, height and questionable behavior dropped him into the Bengals' lap. Forget about the speed and height. Warrick is a great football player who makes big plays on the field. Ask Virginia Tech's great defense, which he embarrassed in the Sugar Bowl that decided the national championship in New Orleans.

### Great Scott leads good WR corps

Playing across from Warrick will be **Darnay Scott**, who eclipsed Pickens as the team's best receiver last year, catching 68 passes for 1,022 yards, a 15-yard average and seven touchdowns. The Bengals drafted Warrick's Florida State teammate, **Ron Dugans**, who has big-time speed but would be more of a possession receiver in Cincy. He'll be the extra man in three-receiver sets (unless Pickens is re-signed). Veteran **Tony McGee** is an OK tight end. **Marco Battaglia** never panned out to be the receiving tight end Coslet had hoped for.

If Smith is as mobile as he was in college, the offensive line should fare better in front of him. His inexperience and lack of anticipation caused many of those sacks last season. Blake was sacked less than three times a game as the starter. The top man on the line is **Willie Anderson** at right tackle. **Rod Jones** should



TEAM STATS	NFL RANK	
TOTAL OFFENSE	329.8	15
RUSHING	128.2	6T
PASSING	201.6	23
SCORING	17.7	24
PUNT RETURNS	11.7	3
KICK RETURNS	24.0	3
RED ZONE TD %	.426	21

TEAM STATS	NFL RANK	
TOTAL DEFENSE	343.6	25
AGAINST RUSH	106.2	16
AGAINST PASS	237.4	28
PTS. ALLOWED	28.8	31
INTERCEPTIONS	12	26T
SACKS	35	23T
TURNOVER DIFF.	-5	19T



**DARNAY SCOTT**  
1,022 YDS 7 TD





Free safety Cory Hall, a third-round pick, was a big surprise as a rookie, starting 12 games.

be more than adequate at left tackle if Smith picks up some moxie. The interior is experienced, with Matt O'Dwyer at left guard and Brian DeMarco on the right side. Rich Braham is the center.

The Bengals put themselves in a familiar quandary when they failed to sign Dillon before he produced his third consecutive 1,000-yard season. To make matters worse, his backup, Ki-Jana Carter, suffered another serious injury in a preseason workout. If it's not Dillon, it will have to be rookie Curtis Keaton, a blazing-fast but sturdy back from James Madison who impressed scouts with his postseason performances. One of the questions about Keaton is his ability as a receiver.

Defensively, the Bengals were last in the AFC by merit. There are three new starters

via free agency: Kansas City left tackle Tom Barndt, Packer right end Vaughn Booker and Seattle free safety Darryl Williams. None of them are likely to make a major impact. The Bengals need to get more out of their young talent. The biggest change is the switch to a 4-3 base alignment.

While the AFC Central is full of strong, young arms, it's also a sackers' division. The Bengals don't do enough of that to stay with the better teams. Michael Bankston, their pass-rush specialist, led the team with six sacks. Left end John Copeland had four. Booker had just 3.5 in Green Bay, Barndt 2.5 in Kansas City. Right tackle Oliver Gibson had 4.5 in his first season as a Bengal.

*The enigmatic Carl Pickens sulked through an underachieving 57-catch year in 1999.*



## 1999 FINAL STATS

Won 4, Lost 12

DATE	SCORE	
09/12	L 35-36	at Tennessee
09/19	L 7-34	San Diego
09/26	L 3-27	at Carolina
10/03	L 10-38	St. Louis
10/10	W 18-17	at Cleveland
10/17	L 3-17	Pittsburgh
10/24	L 10-31	at Indianapolis
10/31	L 10-41	Jacksonville
11/07	L 20-37	at Seattle
11/14	L 14-24	Tennessee
11/21	L 31-34	Baltimore
11/28	W 27-20	at Pittsburgh
12/05	W 44-30	San Francisco
12/12	W 44-28	Cleveland
12/26	L 0-22	at Baltimore
01/02	L 7-24	at Jacksonville

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Dillon	263	1200	4.6	50	5
Blake	63	332	5.3	16	2
Basnight	62	308	5.0	46	0
Smith	19	114	6.0	24	1
Milne	3	30	10.0	26	0
Williams	10	30	3.0	8	0
Groce	8	22	2.8	8	1
Shaw	7	22	3.1	10	1
K. Carter	6	15	2.5	8	1
Covington	2	-4	-2.0	-2	0
Yeast	2	-16	-8.0	-3	0
Team	442	2051	4.6	50	11
Opponents	454	1699	3.7	67t	22

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Scott	68	1022	15.0	76t	7
Pickens	57	737	12.9	75t	6
Jackson	31	369	11.9	29	2
Dillon	31	290	9.4	23	1
McGee	26	344	13.2	35	2
Groce	25	154	6.2	14	0
Basnight	16	172	10.8	47	0
Battaglia	14	153	10.9	30	0
Griffin	12	112	9.3	20	0
Williams	10	96	9.6	19	0
K. Carter	3	24	8.0	11	0
Yeast	3	20	6.7	8	0
Shaw	3	4	1.3	7	0
Smith	1	6	6.0	6	0
Hundon	1	5	5.0	5	0
Bush	1	4	4.0	4	0
Team	300	3504	11.7	76t	18
Opponents	312	4027	12.9	73	28

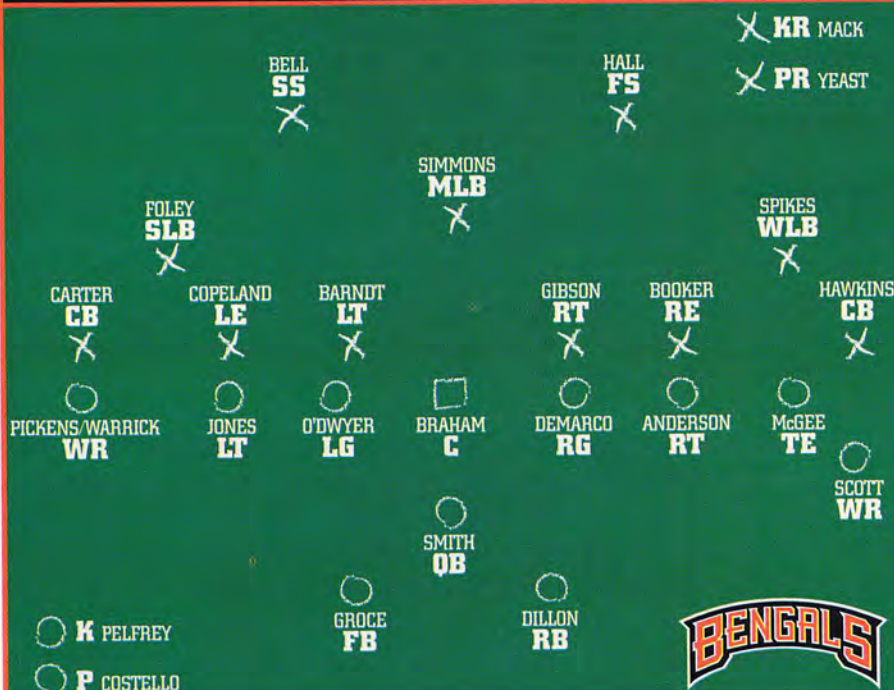
PASSING	ATT	CMP	YDS	TD	INT
Blake	389	215	2670	16	12
Smith	153	80	805	2	6
Covington	5	4	23	0	0
Pickens	1	1	6	0	0
Team	548	300	3504	18	18
Opponents	522	312	4027	28	12

### SACKS

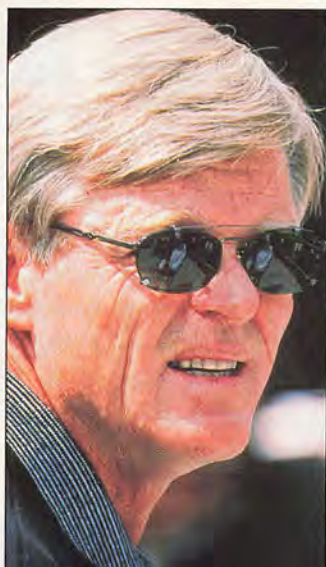
Bankston 6.0, Gibson 4.5, Copeland 4.0, von Oelhoffen 4.0, Foley 3.5, Simmons 3.0, Spikes 3.0, Wilson 3.0, Bell 2.0, Curtis 1.0, Ross 1.0

Team 35.0, Opponents 49.0

## PROJECTED STARTERS







Backup cornerback Tremain Mack (left) led the AFC in kickoff returns last year, one of the few bright spots in a 4-12 season for Cincinnati head coach Bruce Coslet.

### Young linebackers lead defense

The best hope for major improvement lies in middle linebacker **Brian Simmons** and right outside 'backer **Takeo Spikes**. They have the speed and explosiveness to make plays. **Steve Foley** is the left side 'backer. Defensive coordinator **Dick LeBeau** has to make maximum use of Simmons and Spikes.

**Cory Hall**, impressive as a rookie last year, may push free agent Williams, a former star who was released by Seattle, for the starting free safety job or move over to challenge strong safety **Myron Bell**, who has coverage problems. When healthy, **Artrell Hawkins** looks as if he has a bright future at right corner. Left corner **Tom Carter** did OK after he arrived from Chicago in midseason, but rookie **Mark Roman** of LSU should push for work either as the nickel back or as a starter.

**Doug Pelfrey** missed too many gimme field goals and the punting was so bad it's a tossup this year. The return game is the upside. **Tremain Mack** averaged 27.1 yards, highest in the AFC, on kickoff returns, while **Craig Yeast** returned two punts for touchdowns. Nevertheless, Warrick could take Yeast's job away.

## CINCINNATI BENGALS

Bruce Coslet, head coach

Paul Alexander, offensive line; Ken Anderson, offensive coordinator; Louie Cioffi, defensive staff assistant; Mark Duffner, linebackers; Ray Horton, defensive backs; Tim Krumrie, defensive line; Dick LeBeau, assistant head coach/defensive coordinator; Steve Mooshagian, wide receivers; Al Roberts, special teams; Frank Verducci, tight ends; Kim Wood, strength;

#	QUARTERBACK	HT	WT	BORN	EXP.	COLLEGE
19	Mitchell, Scott	QB 6-6	230	01/02/68	9	Utah
15	Kresser, Eric	QB 6-2	223	02/06/73	1	Marshall
11	Smith, Akili	QB 6-3	220	08/21/75	1	Oregon
4	Covington, Scott	QB 6-2	217	01/17/76	1	Miami (FL)
#	OFFENSIVE LINE	HT	WT	BORN	EXP.	COLLEGE
74	Braham, Rich	C 6-4	305	11/06/70	5	West Virginia
72	O'Dwyer, Matt	G 6-5	300	09/01/72	5	Northwestern
73	DeMarco, Brian	T 6-7	323	04/09/72	5	Michigan State
71	Anderson, Willie	T 6-5	340	07/11/75	4	Auburn
75	Stephens, Jaimin	T 6-5	330	01/09/74	4	North Carolina A&T
60	Jones, Rod	T 6-4	325	01/11/74	4	Kansas
62	Gutierrez, Brock	C 6-3	304	09/25/73	3	Central Michigan
79	Rehberg, Scott	T 6-8	330	11/17/73	3	Central Michigan
63	Goff, Mike	G 6-5	316	01/06/76	2	Iowa
61	Coats, Tony	G 6-6	305	10/05/75	1	Washington
#	RUNNING BACKS	HT	WT	BORN	EXP.	COLLEGE
32	Carter, Ki-Jana	RB 5-10	222	09/12/73	4	Penn State
46	Groce, Cliff	RB 5-11	245	07/30/72	4	Texas A&M
28	Dillon, Corey	RB 6-1	225	10/24/75	3	Washington
39	Shaw, Sedrick	RB 6-0	214	11/16/73	3	Iowa
30	Williams, Nick	RB 6-1	267	03/30/77	1	Miami (FL)
38	Basnight, Michael	RB 6-1	230	09/03/77	1	North Carolina A&T
#	RECEIVERS	HT	WT	BORN	EXP.	COLLEGE
81	Pickens, Carl	WR 6-2	206	03/23/70	8	Tennessee
82	McGee, Tony	TE 6-3	250	04/21/71	7	Michigan
86	Scott, Darnay	WR 6-1	205	07/07/72	6	San Diego State
89	Battaglia, Marco	TE 6-3	252	01/25/73	4	Rutgers
85	Hundon, James	WR 6-1	173	04/09/71	4	Portland State
88	Bush, Steve	TE 6-3	258	07/04/74	3	Arizona State
83	Vaughn, Damian	TE 6-4	251	06/14/75	0	Miami (OH)
84	Yeast, Craig	WR 5-7	160	11/20/76	1	Kentucky
87	Griffin, Damon	WR 5-9	186	06/14/76	1	Oregon
#	DEFENSIVE LINE	HT	WT	BORN	EXP.	COLLEGE
90	Bankston, Michael	DE 6-5	285	03/12/70	8	Sam Houston State
92	Copeland, John	DE 6-3	280	09/20/70	7	Alabama
96	Booker, Vaughn	DE 6-5	300	02/24/68	6	Cincinnati
99	Gibson, Oliver	DT 6-2	290	03/15/72	5	Notre Dame
95	McKenzie, Keith	DE 6-3	266	10/17/73	4	Ball State
71	Barndt, Tom	DT 6-3	293	03/14/72	4	Pittsburgh
97	Purvis, Andre	DT 6-4	310	07/14/73	3	North Carolina
70	Steele, Glen	DT 6-4	295	10/04/74	2	Michigan
#	DEFENSIVE BACKS	HT	WT	BORN	EXP.	COLLEGE
38	Jones, Rod	CB 6-0	185	03/31/64	11	Southern Methodist
33	Williams, Darryl	S 6-0	202	01/07/70	8	Miami (FL)
21	Carter, Tom	CB 6-0	190	09/05/72	7	Notre Dame
31	Myers, Greg	S 6-1	202	09/30/72	4	Colorado State
20	Howard, Ty	CB 5-10	185	11/30/73	3	Ohio State
34	Mack, Tremain	CB 6-0	193	11/21/74	3	Miami (FL)
42	Wright, Lawrence	S 6-1	211	09/06/73	2	Florida
27	Hawkins, Artrell	CB 5-10	190	11/24/75	2	Cincinnati
37	Blackmon, Roosevelt	CB 6-1	185	09/10/74	2	Morris Brown
25	Fisher, Charles	CB 5-11	185	02/02/76	1	West Virginia
26	Hall, Cory	S 6-0	205	12/05/76	1	Fresno State
22	Heath, Rodney	CB 5-10	170	10/29/74	1	Minnesota
#	LINEBACKERS	HT	WT	BORN	EXP.	COLLEGE
55	Wilson, Reinard	LB 6-2	261	12/12/73	3	Florida State
98	Curtis, Canute	LB 6-2	256	08/04/74	3	West Virginia
91	Granville, Billy	LB 6-3	252	03/11/74	3	Duke
51	Spikes, Takeo	LB 6-2	230	12/17/76	2	Auburn
56	Simmons, Brian	LB 6-3	233	06/21/75	2	North Carolina
95	Foley, Steve	LB 6-3	260	09/09/75	2	Northeast Louisiana
57	Ross, Adrian	LB 6-2	244	02/19/75	2	Colorado State
33	Armour, Jo Juan	LB 5-11	220	07/10/76	1	Miami (OH)
50	Peterson, Ben	LB 6-3	250	03/28/77	1	Pittsburgh State
#	KICKERS	HT	WT	BORN	EXP.	COLLEGE
9	Pelfrey, Doug	K 5-11	185	09/25/70	7	Kentucky
6	Costello, Brad	P 6-1	231	12/12/74	2	Boston University

\*roster as of May 15

## 2000 SCHEDULE

WEEK	1	9/3	OPEN DATE	
WEEK 2	9/10	CLEVELAND	1:00	
WEEK 3	9/17	at Jacksonville	1:00	
WEEK 4	9/24	at Baltimore	1:00	
WEEK 5	10/1	MIAMI	4:05	
WEEK 6	10/8	TENNESSEE	1:00	
WEEK 7	10/15	at Pittsburgh	1:00	
WEEK 8	10/22	DENVER	1:00	
WEEK 9	10/29	at Cleveland	1:00	
WEEK 10	11/5	BALTIMORE	1:00	
WEEK 11	11/12	at Dallas	1:00	
WEEK 12	11/19	at New England	1:00	
WEEK 13	11/26	PITTSBURGH	1:00	
WEEK 14	12/3	ARIZONA	1:00	
WEEK 15	12/10	at Tennessee	1:00	
WEEK 16	12/17	JACKSONVILLE	1:00	
WEEK 17	12/24	at Philadelphia	1:00	

\*All times Eastern

## 2000 DRAFTEES

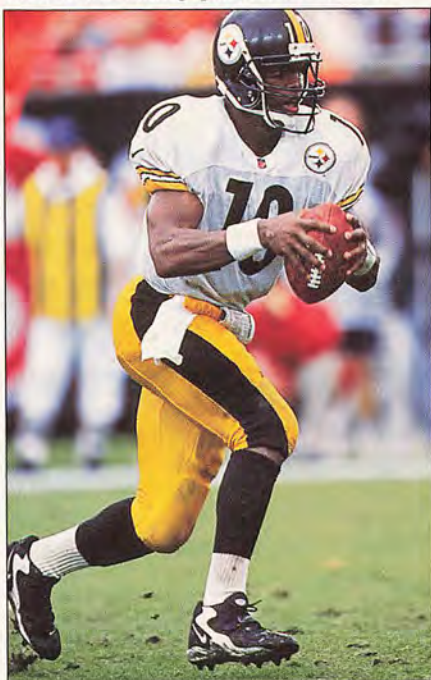
RD	PICK	NAME	POS	HT	WT	BORN	COLLEGE
1	4	Warrick, Peter	WR	5-11	195	06/19/77	Florida State
2	3	Roman, Mark	CB	5-11	185	03/26/77	LSU
3	4	Dugans, Ron	WR	6-1	205	04/27/77	Florida State
4	3	Keaton, Curtis	RB	5-10	214	10/18/76	James Madison
5	4	Bean, Robert	CB	5-11	172	01/06/78	Mississippi State
6	3	Rackers, Neil	K	6-0	200	08/16/76	Illinois
7	4	St. Louis, Brad	TE	6-3	247	08/19/76	SW Missouri State





## Cowher and Steelers are betting the house that top pick Burress will give Kordell the tools to succeed.

**L**et's get this straight. The starting quarterback not only is benched for the last six games, but he changes positions to wide receiver. Then the coach brings him back as the starting quarterback for 2000?



*It's a now-or-never season for Steeler QB Kordell Stewart, who must finally show consistency.*

It sounds more like an academic sabbatical or a religious retreat than a football move. But that's what Bill Cowher, the Pittsburgh coach, did with enigmatic **Kordell Stewart**. Cowher maintains he still has faith in Stewart. Highly respected Tom Donahoe didn't and that's one reason he lost a power struggle with Cowher and was fired as director of football operations.

One reason the Steelers stuck with Kordell, despite their 6-15 record in the last 21 games, is because they have \$8.1 million invested in him. That didn't stop them from signing veteran journeyman **Kent Graham** to a three-year, \$5.1 million contract. They also have nice things to say about untested **Anthony Wright**

and they drafted **Tee Martin** of Tennessee. All of which begs the question: Does Cowher know what he's doing?

### Pass-catching arsenal now deep

To help Stewart the Steelers drafted **Plaxico Burress**, Michigan State's big, talented and erratic receiver. It was the second year in a row a wide receiver was the No. 1 pick. **Troy Edwards'** 61 catches tied **Hines Ward** for tops on the team. If Edwards and Burress are on the field the same time as Kordell, the Steelers will have two polished receivers and an unpolished quarterback attempting to reshape an offense that staggered through five midseason games in which it scored five touchdowns. Stewart passed for just six touchdowns all season and had the worst passing-efficiency rating, 54.9, of any AFC starter.

Is it any wonder the Steeler running game, normally a major asset, struggled? The opposition usually put eight men in a box at the line of scrimmage and dared Stewart to throw. Jerome Bettis barely made it past 1,000 yards. Considering his handicaps, it was a major accomplishment. **Richard Huntley** added 567, averaged 6.1 yards a carry and ran for five touchdowns.

### Awesome Dawson

The big worry in the offensive line is the durability of **Dermontti Dawson**, one of football's all-time great centers. After not missing a game for 10 seasons, Dawson missed a lot of playing time last year and he doesn't look like the iron man he used to be. The only offseason move was to sign **Rich Tylski** of

the Jaguars as the new right guard. Left guard **Alan Faneca** hasn't been the stud the Steelers expected when they made him a first-round draft choice. The tackles are **Wayne Gandy** on the left and **Anthony Brown** on the right. The latter could be challenged by **Kris Farris** or **Chris Conrad**. **Mark Bruener's** value as tight end is his blocking skills.

When last year's defensive coordinator, Jim Haslett, became head coach of the New Orleans Saints, Tim Lewis was promoted from defensive backfield coach to the top defensive job. He has plenty of work ahead of him. When the Steelers went into their second-half tailspin, they dropped from the NFL's No. 2 defense to No. 11.

The line has a different look. Orpheus Roye, the best end, signed with the Browns. Free agency brings ex-Bengal **Kimo von Oelhoffen** to play nose tackle. **Kevin Henry** is dependable on the left

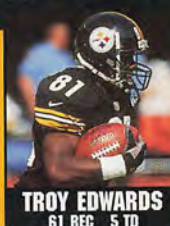


*With only 18 catches last season, sixth-year tight end Mark Bruener's main value to the Steelers is as a blocker.*

## NUMBERS

TEAM STATS	NFL RANK
TOTAL OFFENSE	304.6 22
RUSHING	124.4 10
PASSING	180.2 26
SCORING	19.8 17
PUNT RETURNS	9.0 17T
KICK RETURNS	19.5 23T
RED ZONE TD %	.540 9

TEAM STATS	NFL RANK
TOTAL DEFENSE	305.3 11
AGAINST RUSH	122.4 26
AGAINST PASS	182.9 4
PTS. ALLOWED	20.0 12
INTERCEPTIONS	14 23T
SACKS	40 14T
TURNOVER DIFF.	+3 12T



**TROY EDWARDS**  
61 REC 5 TD





Inside man Levon Kirkland (left) and outside man Jason Gildon make linebacker one of the few areas of strength for the Steelers. Gildon led the Pittsburgh defense with 8.5 sacks last season.

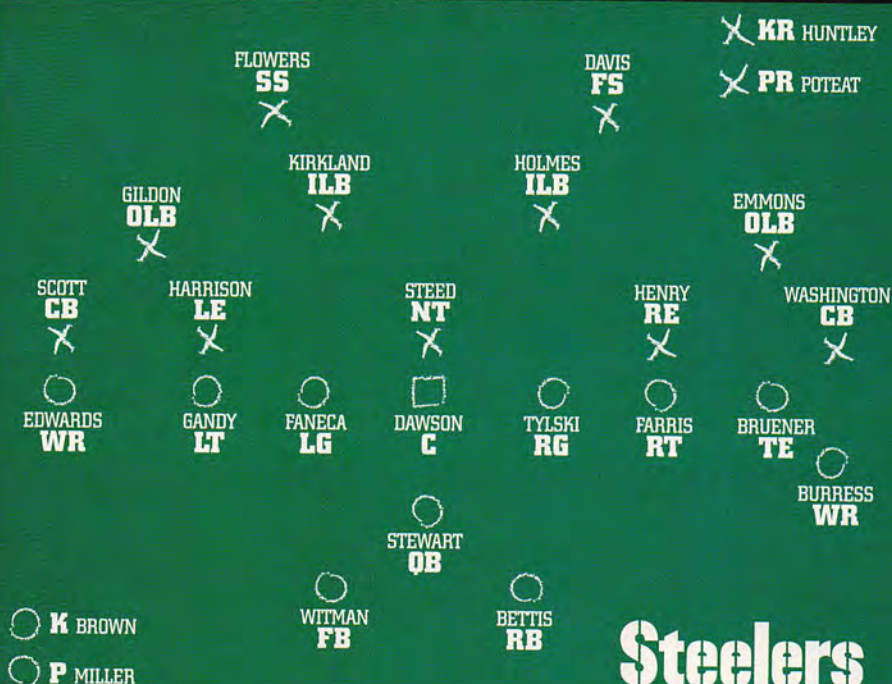
side. Chris Sullivan of the Patriots was signed to replace Roye. Joel Steed, out of shape and hurt last year, and Nolan Harrison, who missed half of the last two seasons, are the best on the bench.

#### Levon Land

Linebacking is the best-fortified area on the team. Inside linebacker Levon Kirkland

was the team's most valuable player. Left linebacker Jason Gildon is solid on the left side and Earl Holmes plays next to Kirkland. Pro sophomore Joey Porter will challenge Carlos Emmons on the right side. In the secondary, cornerbacks Chad Scott and Dewayne Washington are reliable, and so is Lethon Flowers, a team leader, at strong safety. Scott Shields, another second-year

## PROJECTED STARTERS



# Steelers

## 1999 FINAL STATS

Won 6, Lost 10

DATE	SCORE	
09/12	W 43-0	at Cleveland
09/19	W 23-20	at Baltimore
09/26	L 29-Oct	Seattle
10/03	L 3-17	Jacksonville
10/10	L 21-24	at Buffalo
10/17	W 17-3	at Cincinnati
10/25	W 13-9	Atlanta
11/07	W 27-6	at San Francisco
11/14	L 15-16	Cleveland
11/21	L 10-16	at Tennessee
11/28	L 20-27	Cincinnati
12/02	L 6-20	at Jacksonville
12/12	L 24-31	Baltimore
12/18	L 19-35	at Kansas City
12/26	W 30-20	Carolina
01/02	L 36-47	Tennessee

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Bettis	299	1091	3.6	35	7
Huntley	93	567	6.1	52	5
Stewart	56	258	4.6	21	2
Zereoue	18	48	2.7	8	0
Tomczak	16	19	1.2	17	0
Witman	6	18	3.0	7	0
Fuamatu-Ma'afala	1	4	4.0	4	0
Ward	2	-2	-1.0	3	0
Gonzalez	2	-3	-1.5	-1	0
Miller	2	-9	-4.5	0	0
Team	495	1991	4.0	52	14
Opponents	451	1958	4.3	82t	10

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Edwards	61	714	11.7	41	5
Ward	61	638	10.5	42	7
Hawkins	30	285	9.5	23	0
Shaw	28	387	13.8	49	3
Huntley	27	253	9.4	25	3
Bettis	21	110	5.2	17	0
Blackwell	20	186	9.3	26	0
Bruener	18	176	9.8	29	0
Witman	12	106	8.8	38	0
Stewart	9	113	12.6	28	1
Lyons	8	81	10.1	25	0
Cline LG	4	45	11.3	30	0
Cushing	2	29	14.5	22	0
Johnson	2	23	11.5	18	0
Zereoue	2	17	8.5	14	0
Team	301	3118	10.4	49	19
Opponents	245	3167	12.9	88t	20

PASSING	ATT	CMP	YDS	TD	INT
Stewart	275	160	1464	6	10
Tomczak	258	139	1625	12	8
Bettis	1	1	21	1	0
Gonzalez	1	1	8	0	0
Team	535	301	3118	19	18
Opponents	463	245	3167	20	14

#### SACKS

Gildon 8.5, Emmons 6.0, Flowers 5.0, Roye 4.5, Oldham 3.0, Steed 3.0, Kirkland 2.0, Porter 2.0, Vrabel 2.0, L. Brown 1.0, Henry 1.0, Shields 1.0,

Team 39.0, Opponents 37.0



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